

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1880.

TWO } SIXPENCE.
WHOLE SHEETS } By Post, 6d.



"THE ROAST BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND." A SKETCH AT THE CATTLE SHOW.—SEE PAGE 590.

BIRTHS.

On the 10th inst., at 2, Belgrave-square, the Marchioness of Hamilton, of a daughter.
On the 13th inst., the wife of the Rev. J. M. Bury, at Little Hadham Rectory, of a daughter.
On the 13th inst., at the Rectory, Wormley, Herts, the wife of Captain Wyndham Thompson, late 57th Regiment, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 10th ult., at Marley church, in the parish of St. James, in the county of Cornwall, in the Island of Jamaica, by the Rev. John Garcia del Rio, Rector of the parish, assisted by the Rev. Charles G. McGregor, Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Montego Bay, in the said Island, Abraham Matlow Dillet, Esq., of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law, only son of Thomas William Henry Dillet, Esq., J.P., Clerk of the Supreme Court and keeper of Records at British Honduras, to Amy Louise, third daughter of Thomas Hicks Sharp, Esq., Custos and Stipendiary Magistrate for the said parish.

DEATHS.

On the 5th inst., at Government House, Auckland, New Zealand, Walter Arthur William Des Voeux, of dysentery, aged 5 months, second son of his Excellency G. W. Voeux, Governor of Fiji Islands.
On the 9th inst., at Seutari, Constantinople, of fever, Thomas Drury, the second son of Thomas Rumball, C.E., and Mary Ann, his wife, in his 19th year, dearly beloved. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

* The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 25.

SUNDAY, DEC. 19.	
Fourth Sunday in Advent. Morning Lessons: Isaiah xxx. 1-27; Rev. iv. Evening Lessons: Isaiah xxxii. or xxxiii. 2-23; Rev. v. St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Rev. Prebendary Humphry (the Bishop of London's Ordination); 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Liddon; 7 p.m., Rev. A. C. A. Hall, of Boston, U.S. St. James's, noon, probably Rev. Canon Barry.	Westminster Abbey, 10.30 a.m., Rev. W. M. Sinclair, Vicar of St. Stephen's, Westminster; 3 p.m., Rev. Canon Prothero. Whitehall, 11 a.m., Dr. Stanley, Dean of Westminster (for Brompton Hospital); 3 p.m., Rev. W. F. Eskine Knollys. Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain; 7 p.m., Rev. Prebendary Josiah Irons.
MONDAY, DEC. 20.	
Asiatic Society, 4 p.m. (Professor Dowson on the Invention of the Indian Alphabet). Medical Society, 8.30 p.m. London Institution, 5 p.m. (Professor E. Ray Lankester on Growth from the Egg). St. Thomas, Apostle and Martyr. Michaelmas Law Sittings end. Election of City of London Common Council. Humane Society, 4 p.m. Pathological Society, 8.30 p.m.	Society of Arts, Cantor Lecture, 8 p.m. (Professor A. H. Church on Pottery and Porcelain).
TUESDAY, DEC. 21.	
Royal Society of Literature, 8 p.m. London Institution, 7 p.m. (Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, a Storytelling). Commercial Travellers' School, annual dinner, Freemasons' Tavern.	Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m., anniversary. Statistical Society, 7.45 p.m. (Mr. R. Price Williams on the Reduction of the present Postal Telegraph Tariff).
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22.	
Royal Society of Literature, 8 p.m. London Institution, 7 p.m. (Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, a Storytelling). Commercial Travellers' School, annual dinner, Freemasons' Tavern.	Society of Telegraph Engineers, 8 p.m. Civil and Mechanical Engineers' Society (Mr. A. T. Wainman on the Patent Laws).
THURSDAY, DEC. 23.	
Royal Society of Literature, 8 p.m. London Institution, 7 p.m. (Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, a Storytelling). Commercial Travellers' School, annual dinner, Freemasons' Tavern.	Society of Telegraph Engineers, 8 p.m. Civil and Mechanical Engineers' Society (Mr. A. T. Wainman on the Patent Laws).
FRIDAY, DEC. 24.	
Moon's last quarter, 6.57 p.m.	George I., King of Greece, b., 1845.
SATURDAY, DEC. 25.	
Christmas Day. Morning Lessons: Isaiah ix. 1-8; Luke ii. 1-15. Evening Lessons: Isaiah vii. 10-17; Titus iii. 4-9. Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m., Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Stanley.	St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Churn; 3.15 p.m., No sermon. Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. W. Hulton. Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain.

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE
KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.
Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W. Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF				THERMOM.		WIND.		
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Direction.	Force.	Direction.	Force.
Dec. 18.	30.066	47.4	43.2	86	8	51.9	41.0	SW. WSW.	194
19.	30.062	48.9	46.2	88	9	52.9	47.5	SW. WSW. W.	224
20.	30.063	48.4	44.4	87	9	51.3	45.2	W. SW. WSW.	111
21.	30.057	48.8	42.9	82	10	50.4	46.6	WSW.	276
22.	30.031	48.4	43.8	86	8	55.2	43.8	WSW. W.	239
23.	30.028	50.6	43.8	79	57	55.9	42.5	W. WSW.	285
24.	30.188	41.0	37.8	90	3	46.8	35.9	SW. WSW.	205

* Dew.

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock a.m.:—
Barometer (in inches) corrected ... 30.048 ... 30.047 ... 30.029 ... 30.009 ... 30.033 ... 30.230
Temperature of Air ... 48.19 ... 48.72 ... 48.72 ... 48.72 ... 48.72 ... 48.72
Temperature of Evaporation ... 45.42 ... 45.20 ... 46.72 ... 46.72 ... 46.72 ... 46.72
Direction of Wind ... SW. ... WSW. ... WSW. ... WSW. ... WSW. ... WSW.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE
FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 25.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
3 23	3 42	3 58	4 15	4 30	4 48	5 05

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.
THE MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS'
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEARS' FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES,
EVERY DAY AT THREE; EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT;
Commencing on
BOXING DAY, MONDAY, DEC. 27.
The already powerful Company increased to
SEVENTY PERFORMERS,
rendering the
MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS
THE LARGEST, THE MOST TALENTED, AND THE FINEST MINSTREL
COMPANY IN THE WORLD.
PROUDLY DEFYING ALL COMPETITION AND RIVALRY.

FIVE THOUSAND LUXURIOUS SEATS

in the LARGEST and Most Magnificent HALL in EUROPE,
which will be filled with
PROSCENIUM and SCENERY,
expressly for the Festival Performances.
No fees of any description. No charge for Programmes.
Every West-End Omnibus runs direct to the doors of
ST. JAMES'S HALL.

Visitors can also book from any station on the Metropolitan or Metropolitan District Railways, right to doors of the
ST. JAMES'S HALL.
Prices of Admission:—Fautouls, 5s.; Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 2s.; Gallery and Great
Visitors arriving at any of the Railway Termini in the Metropolitan can reach
ST. JAMES'S HALL, by omnibus for 3d. and 4d.
Tickets and Places can be secured by P.O.O., payable to AMBROSE AUSTIN,
ST. JAMES'S HALL.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.—THE CORSIAN BROTHERS Every Night at 8.30.—Lions and Fabien del Franchi, Mr. Irving, At 7.30, BYRONES, by A. W. Pinero. Doors open at 7. Special Morning Performance of THE CORSIAN BROTHERS to-day (Saturday), at 2.30. Box Office (Mr. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats booked by letter or telegram.
NOTICE.—This Theatre will be Closed on Christmas Eve.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.
CLOSED.—WILL REOPEN BOXING DAY, at Three and Eight, with A MERRY CHRISTMAS, by Arthur Law, Music by King Hall; a new Sketch by Mr. Corney Grain, A MUSICAL FAMILY; and a new Second Piece, SANDFORD AND MERTON'S XMAS PARTY, by P. G. Burnand; Music by A. Scott daily.—ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place. Admission, 1s., 2s.; Stalls, 3s., 5s.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS TRAFFIC.
The most complete Arrangements will be made to ensure Quick Transit and Prompt Delivery of Christmas Parcels in all the Principal Towns on the London and North-Western System.
Special Through Vans will be attached to the Express Trains between London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, North and South Wales, Carlisle, and Scotland, for the accommodation of this traffic, and care should be taken to deliver the parcels to the London and North-Western Company's Stations or Receiving Offices, and to order them to be sent per "London and North-Western Railway."
All Parcels should be fully and legibly addressed, and the Address Cards firmly attached. As an extra precaution, labels should be inclosed in the packages, so that the name of the consignee may be ascertained in the event of the outside address becoming detached or defaced.
Special Services of Vans and Carts to and from the Receiving Offices and the Railway Stations will be made during the Christmas week.
No BOOKING FEES are now charged at any of the London and North-Western Company's Railway Stations or Receiving Offices upon Parcels for conveyance over their System.
G. FINDLAY, General Manager.
Euston Station, London, December, 1880.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.
ALL EXPRESS AND ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS issued on DEC. 23, 24, and 25 will be available for the Return Journey by any train of the same description and class up to and including THURSDAY, DEC. 30, except those issued for a less distance than ten miles.
The SPECIAL CHEAP SATURDAY TO MONDAY TICKETS will be ISSUED on FRIDAY, DEC. 24, available up to and including TUESDAY, DEC. 28.

PORTSMOUTH AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—EXTRA TRAINS, DEC. 23 and 24.—The Fast Train leaving Victoria 4.55 p.m. and London Bridge 5.0 p.m. will take passengers for Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor, and on 24th only to Cowes and Newport (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class).
CHRISTMAS DAY.—EXTRA FAST TRAINS (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class) from Portsmouth Harbour 7.0 a.m. and 8.25 a.m. to London. Boats in connection from Ryde 6.30 a.m. and 7.40 a.m.

BRIGHTON.—EVERY SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS DAY.—A CHEAP FIRST-CLASS TRAIN from Victoria, 10.45 a.m., calling at Clapham Junction; also from London Bridge, 10.55 a.m., calling at Croydon. Day Return Tickets, 10s.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—FREQUENT TRAINS from LONDON BRIDGE, New-cross, Victoria, York-road, Kensington, West Brompton, Chelsea, Liverpool-street, Whitechapel, Wapping, Rotherhithe, &c.

TICKETS and every Information at the Brighton Company's West-End General Offices, 25, Regent-circus, Piccadilly, and 8, Grand Hotel Buildings, Trafalgar-square; also at the Victoria and London Bridge Stations.
J. P. KNIGHT, General Manager.

THE ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION of High-class PICTURES by British and Foreign Artists, is NOW OPEN at ARTHUR TOOTH and SON'S GALLERY, 5, Haymarket, opposite Her Majesty's Theatre. Admission, One Shilling, including Catalogue.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
THE FIFTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.
H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary.
Gallery, 55, Pall-mall, S.W.

DORÉ'S GREAT WORKS.—"ECCE HOMO" ("Full of divine dignity."—The Times) and "THE ASCENSION;" "CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM;" "CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM," with all his other Great Pictures.—DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street. Daily, 10 to 6. 1s.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
THE WINTER EXHIBITION, including a LOAN COLLECTION of WORKS by the late GEORGE DODGSON, is NOW OPEN, 5, Pall-mall East, from Ten till Five.
ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.
ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN,
Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.—Professor DEWAR, M.A., F.R.S., will deliver a COURSE of SIX LECTURES (adapted to a Juvenile Audience) on ATOMS, commencing on TUESDAY, DEC. 22, at Three o'clock; to be continued on Dec. 29, 1880, and Jan. 5, 6, 12, 1881. Subscription (for Non-Members) to this Course, One Guinea (Children under Sixteen, Half a Guinea); to all the Courses in the Season, Two Guineas. Tickets may now be obtained at the Institution.

POSTAGE FOR FOREIGN PARTS THIS WEEK,
DECEMBER 18, 1880.

The publication of the Thin Paper Edition of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS being for the present week suspended, subscribers will please to notice that copies of this Number forwarded abroad must be prepaid according to the following rates:—

Africa, West Coast of	2d	Gibraltar	2d
Alexandria	2d	Greece	2d
Australia	2d	Holland	2d
Austria	2d	India	3d
Belgium	2d	Italy	2d
Brazil	2d	Jamaica	2d
Canada	2d	Mauritius	2d
Cape of Good Hope	2d	New Zealand	2d
China, via Brindisi	3d	Norway	2d
... via United States	2d	Russia	2d
Constantinople	2d	Spain	2d
Denmark	2d	Sweden	2d
France	2d	Switzerland	2d
Germany	2d	United States	2d

Newspapers for foreign parts must be posted within eight days of the time of publication.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1880.

It is now understood that her Majesty's Government have resolved to recommend Parliament, immediately upon its meeting, on Jan. 6 next, to pass a Coercion Bill for the restoration and maintenance of order in Ireland. That they have done so with great reluctance cannot be doubted. That if it could be avoided consistently with a due sense of responsibility to the country—nay, more, that if events should within the next three weeks take a turn which will admit of its being avoided—their professions, their principles, and the Liberal policy they are anxious to promote, would unite in swaying their decision to a more agreeable issue, we may take for granted. We believe, however, that the information placed before them by the Chief Secretary has left them no choice but to place in the hands of the Irish Executive further powers for the vindication of the laws. It would seem that nearly one-half of Southern and Western Ireland already suffers under a despotism utterly subversive of individual liberty of thought and action—a despotism which operates in the dark, and which is in itself irresponsible. Of course, no society can endure this state of things long. If the lives of men are to be governed by terror, it is better that the terror should be excited by the representative of Law, and on behalf of Law, than by the unknown agents of a secret combination, and on behalf of Anarchy. It was hoped, indeed, that Irish malcontents might be induced by an earnest attention, on the part of the Imperial Government, to the wants and grievances of this section of the nation, to abide by the ordinary laws of the realm, in prospect of a permanent rescue from the evils to which they are exposed. The hope has not been realised. The primary obligation devolving upon civil rule to secure life, property, and freedom to every individual subject of the Queen must be discharged. Good intentions as to the future cannot be permitted to connive at positive and widespread mischief in the present. It will be matter of

regret to her Majesty's subjects in Great Britain to witness the lifting of the strong arm against the abettors of violent illegality in Ireland. But they will acquiesce in the inevitable. And, although it may be anticipated that the passing of a Coercion Bill will occasion unusual obstructions, it may, we think, be safely assumed that, within a few days of the opening of Parliament, the means really required to assert effectively the supremacy of Law in Ireland will not only have been asked for by the Government, but will have been granted by Parliament, with the approval, silent or expressed, of the Constituent Bodies.

There is no reason to suppose that repression will be the sole, or even the chief, object sought by Ministers for the government of the Sister Isle. No time will be lost in indicating the ameliorative changes which will aim at the drying up of just discontent at its natural sources. The Land System in Ireland, the public is assured, will be fundamentally reconstructed. The process to be adopted for compassing this end may not have been decided upon, although, no doubt, it will be before the meeting of Parliament. The country, however, will not long be kept in suspense. Whether by Resolutions affirming the principles upon which a Land Bill must be based, or by the introduction of the Bill itself into the House of Commons, the changes which her Majesty's Ministers intend to propose affecting the tenure of land in Ireland will be made known at the earliest possible moment. This is both prudent and politic. Immediate pressure may be borne if coming relief is suitable and at hand. We cannot trust to rumour—it is too uncertain—to assure us of what is known to the Cabinet only. But it is somewhat more authoritative than rumour which conducts us and the British Public to the expectation that the Measure of the Government will deal boldly as well as wisely with the question which most interests the inhabitants of the Emerald Isle. That which seemed to belong to the region of political romance but a year or two ago will be placed within the category of practical politics. Men have discussed what they very lately regarded as absurdities in the blazing light of new and more enlarged information, and they have come to see that narrow and, we may even say, insular traditions, however well they may have served their turn and time, must pale before wider and more comprehensive experience. This, at least, is believed to be the view taken of the matter by her Majesty's Government.

Of course, it is not intended that Ireland should engross the whole Session with her affairs, however important. There is, however, a double object in giving to the passing crisis the fullest consideration which it can reasonably demand. It is time to give a practical form, likely, moreover, to be as permanent as practical, to that sense of justice which is entertained by the people of England and Scotland in regard to the claims of their Irish fellow-subjects; to put, in fact, our good-will, our generous thoughts, and our easily but not insincerely spoken words, into deeds; and it is of importance, in doing so, that our efforts should convince the disaffected of the Irish people that Imperial legislation can not only understand what we may call the national idiosyncrasy of Ireland, but can also meet it with measures adapted to satisfy her just desires. There will be no occasion, there will be no serious demand for Home Rule, if the Legislation authorised by the Parliament of the United Kingdom yields to the Irish people such substantial results as they imagine can only be secured by means of a domestic Legislature. We do not mean to affirm that such will be the immediate consequence of a successful Measure for the Tenure of Land in Ireland. But to that result it will unquestionably tend. The injuries resulting from ancient and long-continued grievances cannot be healed in a day. Local prejudices are not to be torn up by the roots at the will of this or that statesman. Habit will have its way for a long time after it has lost its *raison d'être*. But such considerations as these do but enforce with greater emphasis the wisdom of utilising all the advantages we possess for conquering, not merely the will, but the respect and affection, of those who have been driven afar off by our impolicy. Ireland, by its very geographical position, is destined, under any circumstances, to be involved in the consequences of British rule. She may bemoan the fact as a misfortune, but she may learn hereafter to view and use it as a privilege. Who will live to see that day it is not for us to conjecture. Doubtless, however, the day will come. Hatred of what they call "Anglo-Saxon rule" cannot live long after Anglo-Saxon rule has become systematically imbued with the spirit of justice. It will die out of itself. It will pass away like a troubled dream, as it did in Scotland. And the history of its struggles will serve to illustrate the truth that nothing is longer-lived or more prolific of evil results than the disaffection which grows out of selfish and wanton misgovernment.

Owing to the pressure of advertisements upon our space this week, National Sports and numerous other articles are unavoidably omitted.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums District Board last Saturday several reports were presented, showing that there had been a remarkable increase of smallpox in various parts of London during the past fortnight.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

Some English newspaper readers (especially those who have never crossed that "big pond" otherwise called the Atlantic Ocean), may feel somewhat surprised and, perhaps, slightly indignant when they learn that on Monday last, in the American House of Representatives, sitting in solemn session in the Capitol, Washington, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That the sympathy of this House is hereby extended to the unhappy labouring class of Ireland in its efforts to effect a reform in the present oppressive tenant system." We know what kind of "efforts to effect reform in the oppressive tenant system" are being made just now by "Rory of the Hills" and his confederates in the Green Isle. They are doing precisely what the Irish-American "Molly Maguires" did, not long since, in the State of Pennsylvania, and what a number of their leaders, duly sentenced by the American judiciary, were exemplarily hanged for doing.

The *St. James's Gazette* (which is not precisely an optimist of the optimists among journals) seems to think this Resolution passed in the Federal House of Representatives a very grave matter. Had it been moved and carried in the Senate, some degree of serious importance might be attached to it; but the House of Representatives is *par excellence* the place for proposing "fancy" Resolutions. I venture to think that most candid Americans (whatever may be their political "stripe") will agree with me in opining that the Resolution of sympathy with Irish disaffection unanimously adopted in the Lower House of the American Congress amounts, practically, to nothing at all. It is the kind of "sympathy" which may be qualified as a mere abstract expression not susceptible of being reduced to concrete form.

Uncultivated land can be had almost for nothing in the wonderful Western States of the Great Republic. There is neither primogeniture nor entail; and the system of land-conveyance is speedy, simple, and inexpensive. At the same time, American owners of Real Estate entertain very strong convictions as to what is their own property and what is *not* the property of other people; and I should very much like to see (as a natural curiosity) the business-like American who would hesitate to set the full machinery of the law in motion against a tenant who obstinately refused to pay his rent or to surrender property which he had covenanted to hire but declined to settle for. I wonder whether the Legislature of the State of New York would pass a vote of sympathy with the innumerable tenants on the Astor property in Manhattan if they unanimously refused to hand over any more dollars to their landlord.

Surely the English language is the most receptive and the most swiftly adoptive in the world. To "Boycott" has already become a verb active, signifying to "ratten," to intimidate, to "send to Coventry," and to "taboo." For the nonce, journalists have the grace to place "Boycotting" between inverted commas; but ere long, it may be expected, the commas will disappear, and Boycotting will take its place by the side of burking and Bumbledom. A day or two since I read in a solemn leading article in the *Times* a reference (without inverted commas) to "the Three F's" (which Punch takes to mean "Fair, Fat, and Forty"), but which have lately slipped into the political slang dictionary in connection with the Irish land question. Now suppose a habitual politician and newspaper reader to have been absent for nine months in the Fiji Islands, or even to have been laid up for a few weeks at home by rheumatic fever. Supposing him to have returned to England or to have recovered his health. He takes up his *Times*, and he reads a leader about "the Three F's." What are "the Three F's?" he asks a friend. Naturally, he would be stared at as an ignoramus for his pains.

Mem.: The Americans have lately been using a strange word, "bull-dosing," which signifies, I believe, political intimidation, but not personal molestation. I fail to find "bull-dosing" in Dr. Schele de Vere's otherwise copious and curious dictionary of "Americanisms; or, the English of the New World."

In my younger days alliterative initials did not go beyond "the Three R's," "reading," "ritin'," and "rithmetic" (was Lord Palmerston the author of that mildest of educational jokes?); but in this electrically progressive age, in addition to "the Three R's," we have "the Three B's," introduced by Lord Francis Hervey in a very entertaining and instructive speech at the recent annual soirée of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union. According to his Lordship, "the Three B's" stand for "Beer, Billiards, and Books;" but I would respectfully suggest that for Books should be substituted "Birdseye," that kind of tobacco being, I am told, highly popular among those who play billiards and drink beer. Books go better with Bohea.

I am very much obliged to my correspondent "J. U. P.," who reminds me that Jeffries's Tables for the Valuation of Diamonds were published so long ago as the year 1750, and that the value of brilliants in 1880 is very much in excess of Jeffries's estimate. Thus, a perfect brilliant of the finest quality would now be worth three times more than was the case in 1750. But, fancy the customers of Messrs. Storr and Mortimer or Mr. J. W. Benson refusing to pay more than Griffith's—I mean Jeffries's—valuation for the brilliants which they purchased from those eminent dealers in precious stones!

"J. U. P." evidently knows all about diamonds. I wonder whether he can tell me whether there is any truth in the story that diamonds were exceptionally cheap in the year of Continental revolutions, 1848?

Referring to the hotels which I found from the *Cyprus Times* have recently sprung up in that important "place of arms," and allusion to which I was unable to discover in "Murray," I learn, in a courteous note from Mr. John Murray, junior, that the "Handbook for Greece and the Ionian Islands" is now out of print, and that a new and thoroughly revised

edition will be ready shortly. I am glad of this; albeit I shall not cease to treasure my old edition of the Hellenic handbook, if only for its capital dissertation in the introduction on the modern Greek language.

But, respected Giovanni di Moravia, junior, 'twas not to the Handbook for Greece that I referred in quest of the hotels of the isle of Aphrodite and "Wolsley-street." In modern Hellas I might have expected to find Cypselus and Cythera, but not Cyprus, which is in Asiatic Turkey, and it was to the "Handbook for Turkey in Asia" that I turned unavailing in search of a Cypriote *Xenodocheion*. At the same time, let me notice with applause Murray's "Handbook for the Mediterranean," which oddly enough, was being issued from the press at the very moment when I was penning the brief comment on the advertisements in the *Cyprus Times*. The Mediterranean handbook contains an exhaustive account of Cyprus both before and since the British occupation, and names and recommends the majority of the hotels of which I spoke.

Familiar as household words to most readers of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS must be the name of Mr. William Simpson, the valiant artist whose graphic pencil has during so many years, "from China to Peru" and "from Indus to the Pole," so to speak, but certainly from Balaklava to Bombay, from Kars to Candahar, and from Strasburg to Great Salt Lake City, transmitted to us, in charming pictures and drawings, the abstract and brief chronicle of the time. They say that the good Homer nods, sometimes. I am inclined likewise to believe that he can wink, likewise, upon occasion—adding to his winks "becks and wreathed smiles" in the way of good-fellowship. In such a genial mood has Mr. William Simpson, leaving aside for the nonce battles and sieges, shipwrecks and earthquakes, designed in sheer Pantagruelistic camaraderie a card of invitation, to be issued by the members of the Rabelais Club, when they bid guests outside the Abbey of Thelemé to their periodical gatherings.

The card of invitation is delicately printed in a sepia tint, and shows you, in cunningly-drawn panels and lozenges and cartouches, the laughing effigy of the famous Curé of Meudon, the ship that was chartered by those new Argonauts who sailed in quest of "La Dive Bouteille," and the Bottle itself, the cork whereof takes, with appropriate subtlety, the form of the head and bust of the Sphinx. For we do not yet know all that François Rabelais meant. Walter Savage Landor found out the secret of the Allegory which is the backbone of Don Quixote; but there are Mysteries behind Garagantua and Panurge not yet fully solved. Thus, little mystic reminders peep out in Mr. Simpson's card. "*Suum Cuique*!" he cries boldly in one corner. "Up, Heart, and be Doing, with Hard Work and Strong Faith. Elsewhere you read the "Fayce que voudras," the maxim so often misconstrued and perverted, but which true Rabelaisians take to mean, "Do as thou wilt shall be Right and not Wrong;" while beneath the poetic invocation to the Dive Bouteille is the brief, solemn verity, "*Toutes Choses se Mouvent vers leur Fin*." Think of that as you laugh and shake in Rab'lais' easy-chair. Beneath the jovial mask of the Doctor of Chinon there was the visage of a very grave and wise monitor, indeed.

Clubs! Of Clubs, as things go, there is verily no end. Let my readers who hail from the Straits of Malacca, the Bight of Benin, the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Valley of Mexico, and the Bay of Fundy be told that, in addition to the sublime Beefsteak, the pleasant and sparkling Lotos, the refined and harmonious Dilettante Circle, the magisterially sociable Rabelais (of which Master Victor Hugo is, of course, an honorary member), and the New Fielding (the motto of which seems to be "It is never too Late at Night to eat Chops and Kidneys"), London society is promised another new club—artistic, literary, social, and especially musical—called the Falstaff, which is to be installed early in the New Year, in that mansion of strange vicissitudes in the Piazza, Covent-garden (north-west corner), originally built in the reign of Charles II.; erst tenanted by that Dr. Dulcamara *de bonne foi* Sir Kenelm Digby; subsequently tenanted by Admiral Russell, the victor at the battle of La Hogue; and long afterwards, and until very recently, renowned as "Evans's."

It was on board a steamer on the Volga, ever so many years ago, that striking up an impromptu friendship with a Russian fellow-traveller, he told me in French that he had been in England for a short time, and could even remember a few words of our speech. I pressed him to give me a taste of his quality, whereupon in a rapid monotone, and with no solution of continuity, he made this deliverance:—"Evanschopsingroom.covgarden.oneshillingpoliceman." He explained afterwards that during his sojourn in London he had resided in Craven Street, Strand, that he had been taken one night to Evans's Supper-rooms, and had been so immensely pleased with his entertainment and the courtesy (including the snuff-box) of the late (alas! the late) Mr. Paddy Green that he had learned by heart the formula which I have quoted for the benefit of the cabmen whom night after night he ordered to convey him to the Halls of Dazzling Light in the Piazza. The "one shilling" was an allusion to the legal fare between Craven-street and Covent-garden. The "policeman" was a caveat to the cabman against extortion.

Not lightly did I say that correspondents addressed me from the Straits of Malacca and the Bight of Benin. This week's mail brings me a communication from a subscriber to this Journal at Port Adelaide, South Australia, who, noting that many months ago I mentioned that a box of etching materials could be purchased in Paris for about one hundred francs, wishes to know the address of the particular shop whence he could order such a box to be sent out to him. 'Tis a neat oaken casket, not much bigger than an ordinary writing-desk, containing bottles (indiarubber capsuled) for holding aquafortis for "biting in," and Brunswick black for "stopping out," a ball of etching "ground" in a silken envelope, a

twisted torch of waxen taper for smoking the plate, a vice to hold it while it is being smoked, a stick of "bordering wax," a supply of etching needles, burnishers, scrapers, gravers, and roulette tools, with a drawer for holding plates of moderate size, and (delicately thoughtful attention) a set of indiarubber capsules for your fingers, lest you should stain the tips of your digits while handling the acid.

But it is fifteen years since I purchased that box; and the most I can remember as to the place where I bought it was that it was somewhere in the Rue de Richelieu—at the corner of a street, I think. Perhaps some Parisian reader of these lines, of the delightful race of *flâneurs*, may be able and kind enough to tell me where etching-boxes can at present be procured in Paris, so that I may enlighten my correspondent in South Australia. But etching has now become so popular a recreation for artistically-minded ladies and gentlemen that I wonder our Winsor and Newtons, Rowneys, Robersons, and Brodies do not fit up etching-boxes for the benefit of their customers. Now that you can buy a handsome and serviceable box of mathematical instruments for a guinea, a complete set of materials for etching ought not to cost much.

Very frequently since my return from the United States I have been asked by members of the Better Sex in this country, "What are American girls really like? We only see them in London or Paris when they are under the influence of the enchanter Worth; but what are they like at home?" "Mesdames," I would reply, "if you desire a complete presentment, graphic as well as literary, of the American young lady in her habit as she lives, I would counsel you to read a book which, for the sake of its pretty pictures, I lately bought in Holborn. It is called "Little Women."

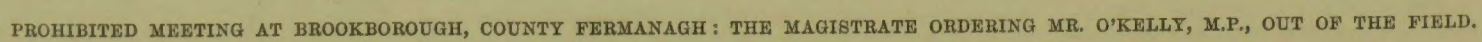
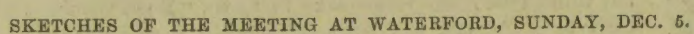
In a handsome volume of nearly six hundred pages copiously illustrated, published by Mr. David Bogue, an American lady named Alcott has exhaustively narrated the fortunes and misfortunes of four fascinating Transatlantic damsels named respectively Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. These little maidens laugh, sing, dance, romp, recite, toast their mamma's slippers before the fire, long for boxes of Faber's drawing pencils and flasks of Eau de Cologne in a most unaffected and diverting manner. Occasionally they have a little fight; and one of the damsels who goes to school is so unfortunate as to be "feruled" on the palms of her lily white hand by a stern schoolmaster for the dire offence of secreting pickled limes in her desk. Altogether, "Little Women" seems a perfectly truthful and unvarnished picture of American home life. Life in the North, mind. Some of the illustrations are slightly "queer" as to drawing, but they are all graceful and animated, and exquisitely engraved.

There are a few charming bits of *naïveté* in the text. For example, "Jo," being at a juvenile ball, is talking to a youth, introduced to the reader as "Laurie," and she asks him if he can speak French. Laurie replies that he spent last winter in Paris; and that at Vevay, in Switzerland, where he was at school, he was not permitted to speak anything but French. "Do say some," I can read it; but can't pronounce," cries "Jo." "Quel nom a cette jeune demoiselle en les pantoufles jolis?" asks with lofty good humour the youthful master of the Gallic tongue. "How nicely you did it," continues "Jo." "Let me see. You said, 'Who is the young lady in the pretty slippers, didn't you?'" "Oui, Mademoiselle." The unblushing little "fraud" "En les pantoufles jolis!" Was that the kind of French he learned at Vevay? It sounds much more like the French of Bunker Hill or Jamaica Plains, to say nothing of Stratford-atte-Bowe.

But let me turn from maidens of fiction to maidens of fact. Last Tuesday afternoon, at two of the clock, was I present at a sweetly pretty sederunt of "Little Women" at the Holborn Townhall, south-east corner of Gray's-inn-lane and Clerkenwell-road, the imposing red brick edifice, with stone dressings, which has replaced that delightfully picturesque but tumble-down group of Tudor houses demolished by the ruthless hand of Metropolitan Improvement. Tuesday was, as you are aware, the wretchedest of days. It was a relief to step from the drizzling rain, the mud and slush, and raw atmosphere of a typical London wet day into the spacious and handsomely decorated Holborn Townhall, in which the Baroness Burdett-Coutts was engaged in opening a most interesting exhibition of artificial flowers, the handiwork of that admirable institution the London Flower-Girls' Brigade. Lady Burdett-Coutts was accompanied to the platform by a number of ladies, including Lady Pollock, Lady Henderson, Lady Gordon, and Lady Keppel. Then the Baroness made, in a clear and well balanced voice, a neat little speech, explaining the purpose of the Flower-Girls' Brigade, of which the head-quarters are in Clerkenwell-close, and the main object of which is to inculcate habits of industry, respectability, and sobriety among the female vendors of fruit and flowers in our streets and public places. When Lady Burdett-Coutts's brief but telling address had come to a conclusion, and the cheers for her Ladyship had subsided, the capital band of the H Division of Police struck up the National Anthem, and the Baroness formally declared the exhibition open. And a most interesting one it was. The Hall was tastefully laid out from end to end with long tables, laden with bouquets—from bridal ones to "button-holes"—and baskets full of choicest flowers and rare plants, all artificial—although one was frequently fain to ask the question whether the bouquets were natural productions of the British Flora, or only so much ingenious mimicry. And at a table in the centre of the hall sat about twenty "Little Women" in white caps, and wearing blue ribbons and badges over their snowy tuckers, all as busy as bees in fashioning, under the direction of competent instructresses, mysterious materials of polychromatic hues into the artificial flowers themselves.

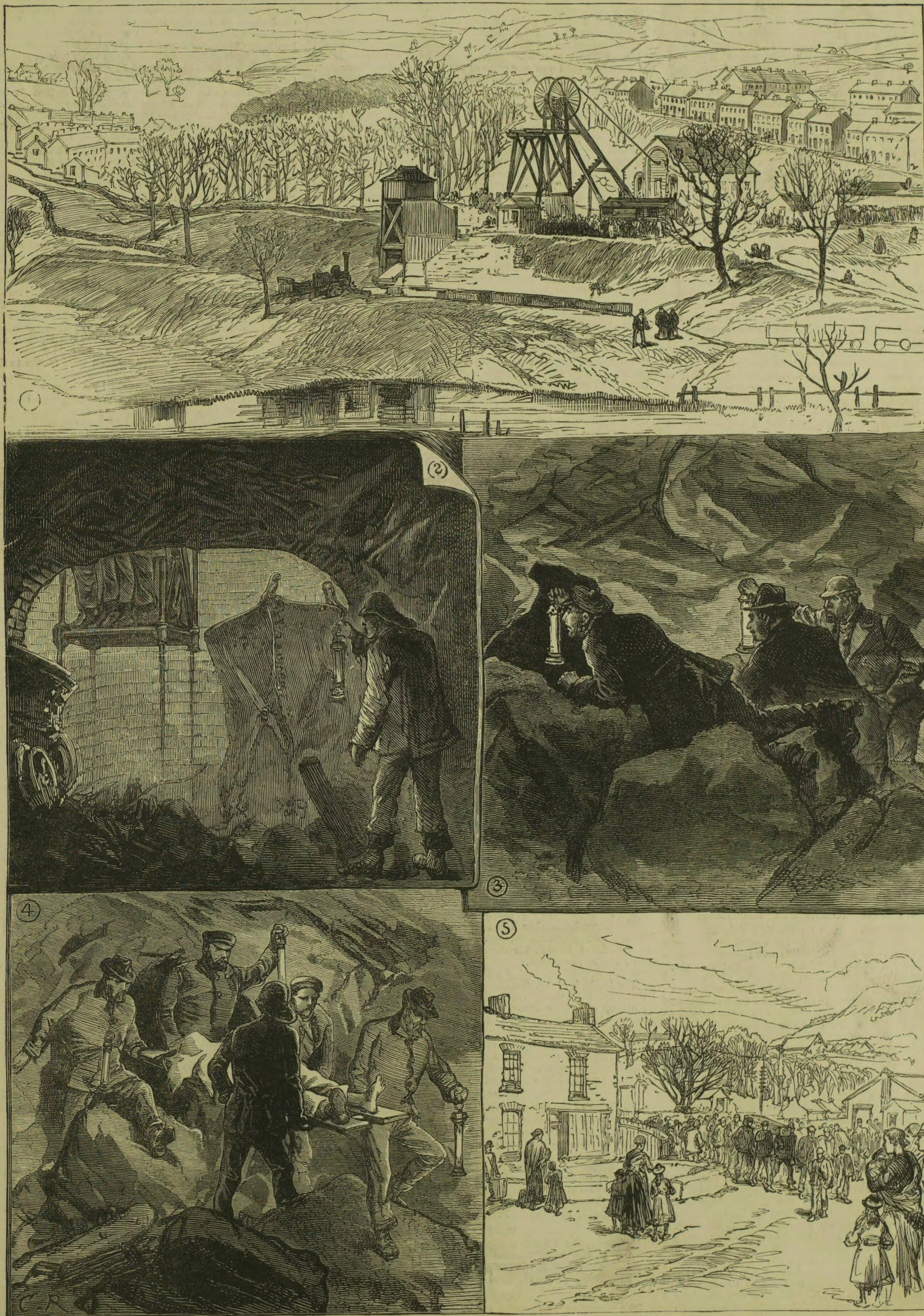
Mem.: I bought for eight-and-thirty shillings (glass shade included) a beautifully glowing and artistically arranged bouquet of imitation flowers, for which, probably, in Paris I should have had to pay a hundred francs. The "Little Women" of the Flower-Girls' Brigade should be taught to try their hands at making artificial fruit. The art is not half so much cultivated as it should be in England. I brought home last April from New Orleans some waxen simulacra of oranges, apples, and bananas, so wonderfully faithful in their imitation of Nature as almost to defy detection unless they were touched. But, then, they were the work of a Mexican artist domiciled in the Crescent City, and the Mexicans are still the most dexterous modellers in wax in the whole world.

G. A. S.



THE COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN GLAMORGANSHIRE.

SEE NEXT PAGE.



1. View of the Pen-y-Graig Colliery. 2. The Down-Shaft; explorers descending.
4. Bringing the dead to the bottom of the Shaft.

3. Explorers crawling between the fallen débris and the roof.
5. Carrying the dead through the village of Treallaw.

THE ROAST BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND.

The Christmas Cattle Show of the Smithfield Club at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, of which some mention was made in our last, came to its close on Friday of last week. The five days of that week brought above one hundred and twenty thousand visitors, the concourse being greater than was ever before known. Our Illustrations presented on the front page of this number may be considered as of a more practical and business-like character than those which showed a few scattered groups of the medley company assembled, with some amusing incidents to be observed among them. Here, in the upper part of our Engraving, is an eager throng of sturdy agriculturists, breeders and graziers, besieging the cheerful official person who has the authentic Prize List in his hand; every man furnished with a catalogue, and prepared to receive some important announcement, which may considerably influence the repute and prospects of his trade. Below this a still more animated scene is represented; that of the noblest prize ox in the show, led by a perfectly happy attendant, passing through crowds of rural enthusiasts, competitors or simply connoisseurs of stock breeding and fattening; with whom are casually mixed some wondering townfolk. The zest and impatient desire, almost fury, with which they rush up to see, to handle, to feel, pinch, and probe with the fingers, such a magnificent specimen of Live Beef, cannot fail to be appreciated by our City readers. We perceive, however, that the little boy with his mamma, in the right-hand corner, feels slightly frightened at the approach of the huge animal, like many a child that is seen at the Zoological Society's Gardens, not quite comfortable in his mind when the mighty elephant walks along the path beside him.

THE IRISH LAND LEAGUE AGITATION.

It is understood that her Majesty's Ministers in the Cabinet Councils held this week have determined, at the urgent request of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, to ask Parliament, when it meets on Jan. 6, for extraordinary Executive powers to suppress the dangerous as well as scandalous practices of the Land League in the forcible intimidation of all classes by threatened outrages similar to those already so frequent, and prevention of lawful business connected with agricultural property, throughout many Western districts. The trial of Messrs. Parnell, Biggar, Dillon, and other leaders of this agitation, will meantime be proceeded with in due course; and Government will prepare a Bill, or several Bills, with Resolutions founded upon the Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry, to amend the laws of land tenure, and to relieve the precarious condition of some part of the Irish peasant farmers.

Our present Illustrations of this unhappy subject, furnished by the Sketches of Mr. Wallis Mackay, our Special Artist in that country, show the scene at the Land League meeting held at Waterford on Sunday, the 5th inst.; and that which occurred at Brookborough, in the Ulster county of Fermanagh, between Clones and Enniskillen, on Tuesday, the 7th, when a prohibited Land League meeting was dispersed. Mr. Rodolphus Harvey, of Enniskillen, stipendiary Resident Magistrate, having thrice read the Riot Act, and being assisted by a constabulary force, drove the people out of the field where the platform was being erected. The two delegates from the Land League, Mr. James O'Kelly, M.P. for Ros. common who is also correspondent of the *New York Herald*, and Mr. Kettle, from Dublin, were turned out by Mr. Harvey in a very summary manner. He took the first-named gentleman by the shoulders, and handed him over to the custody of a constable, who quickly removed him from the ground. There was no attempt at resistance, as it was known that a squadron of the 2nd Dragoons was quartered in the town. The Sunday meeting at Waterford was held in the open air, at a place called Ballybricken, outside the city; the Mayor, Alderman Ryan, was in the chair on the platform, and the speakers were Mr. Parnell, M.P., the two city members, Mr. Power, M.P., and Mr. Leamy, M.P., and two or three Roman Catholic priests. A banquet was afterwards given to Mr. Parnell, and the Town Council presented him with the freedom of the city.

The ordinary winter assizes are now being held throughout Ireland; and several eminent Judges, Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, at Cork, Mr. Justice Barry, at Waterford, and Mr. Baron Dowse, at Galway, have spoken, in their Charges to the Grand Juries, with the gravest and severest earnestness, of the alarming state of the country. Outrageous threatening letters have been sent to these Judges, and several fresh murders and other crimes have been perpetrated. Mr. Forster, the Chief Secretary, came again last Sunday to London, to confer with his Ministerial colleagues upon the present crisis of affairs.

ANOTHER WELSH COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

The Pen-y-Graig Colliery, situate on the Taff Vale Railway, in the Rhondda Valley, Glamorganshire, belonging to Messrs. Morgan and Rowlands, of Pont-y-pridd, was yesterday week the scene of a great disaster, by which a hundred and one lives were destroyed. It happened in the night, about half-past one in the morning, when a hundred and seven men were at work below. The ventilation is said to have been deranged by leaving open the mouth of the upcast shaft, where some repairs to the "cage" used for descending had been going on; so that the "fan" there ceased to draw the air of the downcast shaft through all the subterranean workings. This allowed the coal gas to collect in them, until a "shot," or blasting of coal with gunpowder was fired, or naked lights were used, and then the gas exploded all at once. Such, at any rate, is one explanation of the cause of the disaster, but the fact is disputed. As soon as the explosion became known through the neighbourhood, people collected at the pit's mouth, and exploring parties, led by Mr. Richards, Mr. David Davies, Mr. Edmund Thomas, Mr. Edmund Davis, and Mr. Galloway, deputy inspector of mines, went down at intervals the next morning. But the gas still remaining in the underground passages, the fall of the roofs in many parts, and the heaps of rubbish, earth and coal, and the broken "bratticing," or line of air-screens, along the levels, made it difficult for them to get on. Four men were soon found alive, at the bottom of the downcast shaft, and were sent up in safety. Another man, John Morgan, was rescued alive on Saturday afternoon, having been forty hours without food, most of that time wedged in a crevice, with the body of a dead comrade beside him. He has a wife and eight children, and they had given him up for dead, so that an Insurance Office was about to pay the supposed widow £30 upon his death. His son and daughter had come from Bristol to condole with their mother. The Illustrations sketched by our Artist include one of the explorers descending the downcast shaft, which is 450 yards deep; another, showing them crawling over the heaps of debris, with little space between this and the roof of the gallery; also, bringing some of the dead bodies to the bottom of the shaft, whence they were drawn up to the surface. About fifteen thousand people were assembled there on Saturday and Sunday; and the scene, as the dead were carried through the neighbouring village of Trellaw, is the subject of our last

Illustration. An inquest was opened on Monday by the coroners for Llantrissant and Ystradgynodwg, acting jointly, but was adjourned to Jan. 5. The Government Inspector of Mines, Mr. Wales, and the Deputy Inspector, Mr. Rhys, have visited the colliery. A subscription for the relief of widows and children has been opened, to which the Lord Mayor of London offers to receive any London contributions.

PARISIAN SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Paris is full of the noise of strife. The warfare of words is waxing fierce. Nothing seems to be stable, nobody inspires complete confidence, not even the Parisian sister of "the old lady of Threadneedle-street," owing to the extraordinary drain upon gold and the issue of fifty-franc notes. Happily, however, the alarmists of the monetary question themselves do not inspire any more confidence than plain citizen Rochefort; and so extremes meet, and in spite of the hubbub perhaps the majority of the Parisians are thinking more about the social exigencies of New-Year's Day than about the din of arms that fills the newspapers. The necessities of the journal oblige me to be excessively brief this week, so that I cannot dwell upon the history of all these quarrels. One would think that truly the world was out of joint. Here is the editor of the *Voltaire* trying to show that Rochefort stooped in 1871 to ask Gambetta to obtain his pardon of Thiers. The *Voltaire* has published a letter addressed by Rochefort to Gambetta which makes the former cut a very poor figure, and Louise Michel declares that Rochefort must be disowned as a traitor if he cannot explain the letter. Rochefort maintains that the letter was dictated to him by his lawyer, M. Albert Joly, who died last week, but that it was never delivered. The controversy is still raging bitterly, and either Rochefort or Gambetta will come out of it with a stain on his loyalty. In the Legitimist press there is a controversy and the prospect of a duel between the editors of the *Gaulois* and the *Triboulet*; in the Bonapartist press an assault at arms between Paul de Cassagnac and Robert Mitchell; in the artistic world two duels: at the Théâtre des Nations, *apropos* of a drama called "Garibaldi," nightly riots between the "gods" and the orchestra, the revolutionaries and the reactionaries; while Louise Michel from the heights of Montmartre, Angel of the Commune, proclaims that Gambettism is the enemy, the serpent that must be crushed. Let us hope that, in view of the rapid approach of the end of the year, all parties are simply hastening to get rid of their bile in order to take a fresh start in 1881.

In the midst of all this hubbub Madame Thiers died quietly on Saturday last, after an illness of nearly three weeks. She married Thiers in 1833, when she was only fifteen years of age. Her life, as well as that of her sister, Mlle. Doine, was spent entirely in devotion to the man whose memory she lived to see dragged in the mud by the returned Communards. Her death has not attracted much attention. She will be buried tomorrow with great splendour.

On Saturday Gambetta made a speech at the Sorbonne on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Polytechnic Association. In the course of his remarks, he called Auguste Comte the greatest thinker of the century.

And now, here is a scandalous affair to conclude with. The granddaughter of Marshal Ney is in Saint-Lazare Prison, and her husband, the Baron Friedland de Friedland, is at Mazas. The young lady, who is the second daughter of the late Duc de Persigny, is charged with having forged bills for more than 100,000fr. in the name of her grandmother, the Princess de la Moskowa. Does it not seem, as a *boulevardier* said the other day, as if at the present moment *le monde a ses nerfs*?

T. C.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

ITALY.

The King gave audience on the 10th inst. to the new Danish Minister, M. Hegermann-Linderkrone, and to the new Minister of Bavaria.

During the discussion of the Estimates in last Saturday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, the Government was urged by Signor Calveletto to push forward vigorously the works for the defence of Venice and the arrangements for fortifying the western frontier, the speaker concluding with the words, "We desire a durable peace with Austria; but it is, nevertheless, our duty to be prepared for all eventualities." The War Office Estimates were adopted.

A site in the public cemetery has been granted by the Roman Communal Council to a cremation company.

HOLLAND.

The Second Chamber has approved the Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 57 against 7 votes, after granting a credit of 6000 fl. for the establishment of one or several consulates in Roumania.

RUSSIA.

The festival of St. George was celebrated at the Winter Palace, St. Petersburg, on the 8th inst., in the usual way, by a dinner, at which about 3000 knights of the order were present. The first toast was that of the German Emperor (from whom a congratulatory telegram had been received) introduced in the warmest terms by the Czar, who recapitulated his military services and bore witness to his unflinching friendship for Russia and her Sovereign. The health of the Czar was proposed by the Grand Duke Nicholas.

GERMANY.

The King of Saxony arrived at Berlin yesterday week, and was received at the station by the Emperor personally. A grand hunt was held near Berlin next day in his honour.

The second anniversary of the death of Princess Alice was observed at Darmstadt on Tuesday both by Sovereign and subjects. The German Crown Princess went to the mausoleum of her deceased sister, and placed a wreath of immortelles on the tomb, and afterwards attended the anniversary service held in the hospital erected through the instrumentality of the late Princess.

TURKEY.

M. Tissot, the French Ambassador, dined with the Sultan on Monday, and was presented by his Majesty with the grand cordon of the Order of the Osmanie.

The military preparations are increasing.

GREECE.

The Chamber has passed all the Supplementary Votes, including the money required by the Ministry of War and Marine.

Count Mouy, the new French Minister to Athens, has presented his credentials to King George, and, after stating the traditional friendship of France for Greece, counselled a policy of prudence. The King, in reply, said the Powers had arranged the frontier, and the prompt execution of their decisions would be the surest means of averting the danger of fresh complications.

AMERICA.

President Hayes has sent to Congress the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, stating that the diseased cattle exported to England came from the Western States, and indicating that pleuro-pneumonia exists there as well as in a few sections of the Eastern States, and also in Chicago, Buffalo, Albany, Boston, and Portland, which, being the principal points of shipment, are disease centres. The report recommends Congress to restrict the movement of cattle from and within the infected districts.

The House of Representatives on Monday unanimously adopted the following resolution:—"That the sympathy of this House is hereby extended to the unhappy labouring class of Ireland in its effort to effect a reform in the present oppressive tenant system." On Tuesday the House adopted a resolution of sympathy and condolence with the family of the late Madame Thiers on the loss which they have sustained.

A bill has been introduced in the House to place General Grant on the retired list with the rank and pay of a general.

Mr. Thompson has tendered his resignation as Secretary of the Navy, in order to accept the chairmanship of the American committee of the Panama Canal Company.

The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times* says that the political revolution in the city of New York attracts public attention, credit being given to the *New York Herald* as the chief factor in the overthrow of the Tammany ring. The eleven officials were confirmed by the Board of Aldermen, six being Republicans and five anti-Tammany Democrats. Mr. Allan Campbell succeeds Mr. Kelly. General rejoicing has followed the result, which is regarded as an overthrow of the "Bosses" in New York City politics.

Almost the entire business portion of the town of Pensacola, in Florida, was burned down on Friday night last week. One hundred buildings were destroyed, and the loss is estimated at 750,000 dols., of which 300,000 dols. is covered by insurance. Pensacola has a population of 3500, and possesses only one fire-engine, which was at the time out of repair. At a fire in Cincinnati on Saturday five firemen lost their lives.

An application for the Central Park, New York, as a site for the International Exhibition of 1883 has been withdrawn by the committee; and it is stated that Inwood, on the Harlem river, has been selected.

Owing to the severe cold, four men were frozen to death in New York on Sunday night.

Another attempt is being made by a large organised force of frontier men from Kansas to invade and settle in the Indian reservation of Okolama, in consequence of which the frontier is now being guarded by United States troops.

Colonel Gildersleeve has received a letter from Earl Stanhope officially inviting the American Rifle Association to compete with a team representing Great Britain and Ireland in July next, and expressing a hope that the Americans will also send a team to the Wimbledon meeting.

CANADA.

The Marquis of Lorne opened the Dominion Parliament on the 9th inst. He congratulated the members of both Houses upon the undoubted return of prosperity to the country, and announced that contracts had been entered into with men of high financial standing in Europe, the United States, and Canada for the speedy construction and permanent working of the Pacific Railway. Parliament had been summoned to meet earlier than usual, as nothing further could be done until its policy with regard to the railway has been decided upon except to progress steadily with the portions of the line now under contract. His Excellency urged the consideration of the forthcoming report of the Civil Service Reform Commission. The distribution of relief among the famine-stricken Indians in the North-West had involved a large expenditure. Some bands of Indians had begun to cultivate the soil, and efforts would be made to induce all of them to do so. In conclusion, his Excellency said that the existing tariff had promoted the manufactures and products of the country, and had increased the revenues of the Dominion, so that the receipts of the current fiscal year would exceed the expenditure.

The House of Commons on Saturday voted the Address in reply to the speech of the Governor-General.

The arrangement made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Syndicate was presented to the House yesterday week, and is being discussed this week. In Monday's sitting of the Dominion House of Commons a motion of the Opposition to postpone the debate until Jan. 5 next was defeated by a majority of fifty-two votes. The discussion of the Pacific Railway scheme was resumed in the Dominion House of Commons on Tuesday. The Hon. Sir C. Tupper, Minister of Railways, in moving that the House should resolve itself into a Committee for the purpose of considering the resolutions ratifying the contract entered into with the railway syndicate, delivered a speech of six hours' duration, in which he reviewed the progress of the undertaking, and declared that in three years the syndicate would complete the line to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

The sixty men belonging to Section B of the Pacific Railway, who recently struck against a reduction of their wages, have resumed work on their employers' terms.

INDIA.

Intelligence was received at the India Office on Tuesday that the Marquis of Ripon's health continues to improve.

Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern has renounced the succession to the throne of Roumania in favour of his eldest son.

A Secret Consistory was held at the Vatican on Monday. Mgr. Hassoun was made a Cardinal.

Mr. Bertram Wodehouse Currie has been appointed a member of the Council of India, in the room of the late Sir W. L. Merewether.

The ship *Devon*, 1148 tons, Captain Barron, chartered by the Agent-General for New South Wales, sailed from Plymouth for Sydney on the 12th inst., with 395 emigrants.

Princess Elenora Gonzaga, who died on Nov. 21, has bequeathed to the Academy of Milan the portrait of Titian, painted by himself.

With great enthusiasm, the anniversary of the capture of Plevna by the Russian and Roumanian troops was yesterday week celebrated at Bucharest.

A Channel Islands Exhibition for local produce and manufactures, similar to that held at St. Heliers in 1871, is being organised for next year, to be held at Guernsey.

A new Antarctic expedition is about to be undertaken, under command of Captain Sir A. Young, who expects to leave England for the Cape this month in his yacht *Ulen*.

At the elections to the Servian Skuptschina, held last Saturday, very few supporters of the late Ristic Ministry were returned, and the general result is decidedly in favour of the present Ministry.

The *Gazette* contains a Treasury warrant notifying that the rates of postage on postal packets to and from Jamaica shall extend to all postal packets to or from the West Indian Colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, and Tobago (of the Windward Islands) and Turks Islands.

THE PLAYHOUSES.

On Saturday last, at the Court Theatre, which was filled to overflowing, Madame Helena Modjeska sustained, for the first time before a London audience, the arduous part of Adrienne Lecouvreur, in an anonymous English adaptation of the famous French drama by MM. Scribe and Legouvé. Old playgoers will remember an earlier English version of "Adrienne," written by the late Mr. John Oxenford, and called "The Reigning Favourite," which was brought out at the Strand Theatre some thirty years ago—Mrs. Stirling playing the part of the heroine, Mrs. Leigh Murray the Princess de Bouillon, and the late Mr. William Warren the old prompter, Michonnet. For some reason or another, Mr. Oxenford's adaptation failed to obtain any very extended popularity; and thus the more recent impersonation of the renowned *tragedienne* by Mdle. Sarah Bernhardt, at the Gaiety—a performance which was noticed at length in this column—came upon the public almost as a novelty. Mdle. Bernhardt's Adrienne was, as all the play-going world knows, a superb creation. I preserve the memory of it very freshly in my mind, as, with little less distinctness, I retain the remembrance of Rachel in Adrienne; but I do not intend to institute any comparisons between the different renderings of the great French actress of the last generation, the consummate artiste who is now fascinating the public of the United States, and the gifted Polish lady who has achieved so brilliant and so legitimate a triumph at the Court. Madame Modjeska's Adrienne Lecouvreur should be judged entirely on its own merits, and as a distinctly independent and original study of one of the finest characters in the modern French repertory.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate the plot of the drama, save in so far as to refresh the public memory by hinting that the entire intrigue of the fable is based on the love of two women—a wicked one of high birth, and a lowly-born but pure-hearted one, who is only a play-actress—for Count Maurice de Saxe, and that Adrienne is also beloved, but with submissive hopelessness, by the old prompter, Michonnet. In the end, the vindictively jealous Princess assassinates her hated rival by means of a subtle poison infused into the flowers of a bouquet. To carry on the action of the piece, which culminates in this lamentable catastrophe, the services of a pompous *Grand Seigneur*, the husband of the wicked Princess, and of a gossiping *Abbé*, who is *aux petits soins* with her Highness, are necessary. That is all. Several male and female puppets, in the shape of lady and gentlemen guests in the *salons* of the Princess de Bouillon, and a number of actors and actresses in fantastic Turkish costumes in the green-room of the *Théâtre Français*, make their appearance from time to time; but they say nothing, and are substantially of no more account than the other highly decorative furniture and "properties" which adorn the stage. The entire interest of the piece centres in Madame Modjeska as Adrienne, and Mr. Forbes Robertson as Maurice de Saxe. Madame Modjeska's forte consists, first, in alternately playful and pathetic love-making, in which she can be as fascinating and as tender as the best Juliet that ever graced our stage; and next in simulating, with great power and directness, the last struggles of a dying person. Some critics have held that elaborate dying is not a legitimate branch of art. They held with Voltaire (who had the impudence to call Shakespeare "un barbare") that moribund actors and actresses should always give up the ghost behind the scenes, and refrain from bringing the actual *thanatos* down to the footlights; but so long as Juliet, or the Queen in "Hamlet," and Desdemona die,—so long as the body of Cordelia is brought on dead, and Ophelia is buried *coram publico*—Frou Frou, and Marguerite Gauthier and Adrienne Lecouvreur must be suffered (if we are to be consistent) to expire in full sight of the audience; and painfully touching as were the death-deliriums and final collapse of Madame Modjeska as Adrienne, her simulated sufferings did not produce that sensation of painful uneasiness which was awakened by the passage of Marie Stuart to the scaffold, and her lugubrious recitation of the Penitential Psalms in low Latin at the wings. The dying scene in Schiller's play, so admirably rendered by Mr. Lewis Wingfield, errs on the side of excessive and morbid realism, albeit the actual death-blow is not inflicted on the stage; whereas in the visible death of Adrienne there is nothing harrowing or repulsive, and it is only our gentler sentiments that are awakened and our softer sympathies that are moved.

Another charge which hypercriticism has brought against Madame Modjeska is that her familiarity with the English language is still so limited that she slurs the intonation of her final consonants, and, at a short distance from the stage, can be only very indistinctly heard. As regards this objection, my own judgment will not be of any great value, since I was fortunate enough to occupy a seat in the front row of the stalls, and heard every word that Madame Modjeska said; still, to all appearance, the audience in the boxes and gallery heard quite as well as I did, since they seized, with one exception, on every one of the actress's "points," and applauded them to the echo. The exception was in the famous "tirade" in the fourth act, in which the exasperated Adrienne selects for recitation a speech from Corneille, which lends itself to the accomplishment of her purpose of indignantly apostrophising and vituperating the Princess de Bouillon. Madame Modjeska's action in this crucial scene was simply magnificent; but the burst of passionate invective missed its effect, first because it was so famely and baldly written, and next (a very uncommon fault in stage harangues) it was too brief, and came to an end before the audience were fully imbued with a sense of the actress's meaning. This partial check did not imperil Madame Modjeska's success, still it did not enhance the advantages which she had already gained. Splendid amends were, however, made for the adaptor's want of skill by the dying scene in the fifth act; and as the consummation of the tragedy approached it was in the highest degree interesting, as it was likewise most unusual to see how pit and gallery and, to a certain extent, the boxes, took the task of deciding on the merits of Madame Modjeska, in this particular part, completely and utterly out of the hands of the *blanc* and exacting stalls. The house literally "rose at" Madame Modjeska. The *vox populi* had it. In no theatre, these many years past, have I heard such a tremendous roar of acclamation as that which greeted this truly great actress when she finally sank, expiring, into the arms of Maurice de Saxe; and at the conclusion of the drama she was recalled at least five times, amidst a perfect Babel of enthusiastic applause. She had conquered the Commons; and the Commons, after all, in matters dramatic, are King, let the critics say whatsoever they please to the contrary notwithstanding.

Madame Modjeska was supported to a fair extent of efficiency. Miss Amy Roselle, whose first appearance after a late severe indisposition rejoiced all her admirers, imparted sufficient vigour, but lacked dignity as the Princess de Bouillon. The same, in degree, may be said of Mr. Forbes Robertson's Maurice de Saxe, which was bluff, hearty, and manly enough, but had a little too much of

the camp and not enough of the Court about it. In the first scenes he played the part of a subaltern too well; for few would have suspected that a son of a king, a Duke of Courland, and a General in the French service, was concealed beneath the somewhat shabby uniform and plain peruke of a lieutenant of foot. Mr. Beveridge was adequately vainglorious as the pedantic Duke de Bouillon, and Mr. Lin Rayne was a diverting but occasionally tiresome *Abbé de Chazouil*. He was so much of a butterfly with black silk wings, that from time to time one really felt inclined to break him on the wheel. Mr. G. W. Anson's Mahomet was a very carefully studied and able representation; but he was a trifle too robust in voice and gesture, and would have done better to have modelled his Mahomet on the subdued but telling lines of Mr. Benjamin Webster as the old copyist in "One Touch of Nature." The scenery, dresses, and general appointments in "Adrienne Lecouvreur" were everything that could be desired, and reflect the highest credit on the management of Mr. Wilson Barrett.

G. A. S.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The production, for the first time in Italian, of Wallace's "Maritana" took place on Thursday week, when the cast included Mdle. Elisa Widmar in the title-character, in which the lady sang with much grace and refinement, but with some lack of dramatic impulse, this want having been still more observable in her impersonation of the part. Mdle. Widmar was deservedly applauded in her delivery of Maritana's two principal airs, "Tis the harp in the air" and "Scenes that are brightest," the latter of which was encored. The excellence of Madame Trebelli's performance as Lazarillo rendered it a special feature. Her co-operation in the concerted music was most valuable, especially in the well-known trio, "Turn on, Old Time" (we adhere to the familiar English titles). The expressive air, "Alas! those chimes," was so charmingly rendered by Madame Trebelli that its repetition was inevitable. Signor Vizzani was more successful in the music of Don Caesar de Bazan than in his representation of the character. The demonstrative song, "Yes, let me like a soldier fall," and the ballad, "There is a flower," were given with such effect as to gain an encore in each instance. The parts of the King and Don José were satisfactorily filled respectively by Signor Ghilberti and Mr. B. Foote; the cast having been completed by Signor Pro and Mdle. Barnadelli in subordinate characters.

The music—although neither very original or profound—is bright and tuneful, and might have proved continuously attractive had the opera been produced earlier. The English text of Fitzball has been rendered into Italian by Signor Zaffina, and recitatives have been skilfully added by Signor Tito Mattei. The opera was repeated on Saturday night (with the same cast), and was followed by the National Anthem; and this closed the series of autumn and winter performances which began on Oct. 18.

But one more of the Crystal Palace Saturday afternoon concerts remains to be given during this year. Last Saturday's programme was chiefly devoted to a performance of Mr. Arthur Sullivan's sacred musical drama, "The Martyr of Antioch," the first since its successful production at the Leeds Festival in October last. As the work was noticed on that occasion, brief comment on its repetition will suffice. In last Saturday's rendering the solo music, belonging to the characters of Margaret, Julia, Olybius, and Callias, was sung, respectively, by Mrs. Osgood, Madame Patey, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. F. King; all but Mrs. Osgood (who replaced Madame Albani) having been associated with the Leeds performance. The little music allotted to Fabius was assigned to Mr. H. Cross. Most of the pieces were much applauded on Saturday, when, as before, Mr. Sullivan conducted, the work having been preceded by his overture entitled "In Memoriam."

The last Monday Popular Concert of the year took place this week, with an interesting, although more or less familiar, programme. After this (Saturday) afternoon's performance, the concerts will be suspended until the first week in January.

Mdle. Janotha gave the second, and last, of her Pianoforte Recitals on Wednesday afternoon at St. James's Hall; where, in the evening, the last London Ballad Concert of the year took place.

Mr. J. F. Barnett's Cantata, "The Building of the Ship," was given for the first time in London by the North London Philharmonic Society, at St. Andrew's Hall, Newman-street, on Thursday evening. The work was noticed by us when produced at the recent Leeds Festival.

Yesterday (Friday) evening the Sacred Harmonic Society held its forty-ninth Christmas performance of "The Messiah," in its new locale—St. James's Hall—the solo singers announced having been Mesdames Sherrington and M. Cummings, Mr. V. Rigby, and Mr. Bridson.

The first concert of the new season of the Royal Albert Hall Orchestral Society is to be given to-night (Saturday), when the performances will be for the benefit of the French Hospital and Dispensary, Lisle-street. The programme is interesting and varied. Mr. George Mount continues to act as conductor.

The fourth, and last, of Mr. F. H. Coven's series of orchestral concerts takes place, at St. James's Hall, this (Saturday) evening, when his new symphony (No. 3) will be performed for the first time.

This (Saturday) evening Madame Sainton Dolby gives a concert at Steinway Hall, at which a selection of vocal music will be rendered by pupils of her academy.

The Highbury Philharmonic Society began a new season on Monday evening, when the programme comprised Dr. F. E. Gladstone's new sacred cantata, "Nicodeamus," and Handel's "Aeolus and Galatea;" Dr. Bridge having been the conductor.

Mr. Sims Reeves has announced a Ballad Concert at St. James's Hall for next Thursday evening, when he, his son (Mr. Herbert Reeves), and other eminent performers will contribute to a varied programme.

Mr. John Cross has established a series of Monday evening concerts at the Holborn Townhall, the programmes of which have included the names of several eminent vocalists and instrumentalists.

The dates of the concerts of the Philharmonic Society's sixty-ninth season have been fixed for Feb. 24, March 10 and 24, April 7, May 12 and 28.

The Bach Society will give performances on March 3, April 6, and May 18—Mr. Otto Goldschmidt being again the conductor.

The 143rd Anniversary Festival of the Royal Society of Musicians is to take place, at St. James's Hall, on Feb. 10, with the Duke of Connaught as president.

Madame Adeline Patti, just before leaving Berlin, was presented by the Emperor of Germany with his portrait and autograph.

On Monday next the Brixton Choral Society—conducted by

Mr. W. Lemare—opens a new season with performances of Dr. Hiller's cantata, "A Song of Victory," Weber's music to "Preciosa," and the finale to Mendelssohn's unfinished opera "Loreley."

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

Messrs. Chappell, Messrs. Metzler, and Messrs. Ashdown and Parry have each published their annual shilling collection of Christmas dance music. That issued by the first-named firm forms the 122nd number of their *Musical Magazine*, and contains ten pieces in different dance forms by D'Albert, Strauss, Waldteufel, Etterlen, Fahrbach, and Terry. Messrs. Metzler's Christmas number is part of the series of their "Musical Bijou," and includes waltzes, polkas, and quadrilles by Strauss, Godfrey, Waldteufel, Fahrbach, and Marie; and other dance pieces. Messrs. Ashdown and Parry's publication is their fifth "Album of Dance Music," and comprises a varied series of pieces suitable for the ball-room.

"The Return of the Victor" (Chappell and Co.) is a very spirited song. The words, by Mr. J. L. Laty, appeared in our Christmas Number of 1879, in connection with a coloured drawing, full of life, by the eminent artist, Sir John Gilbert, R.A., to whom the song is dedicated. The lines have the merit of conveying clearly and succinctly, with a fitness for musical purposes, the event of the safe return of a long absent warrior, and the sentiment of his wife's transition from mourning to joy. The setting, by Mr. Edward Holmes, is in the vigorous, martial style; the melody being clear and distinctly rhythmical, and available for voices of any calibre.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty's guests at dinner at the close of last week included Prince and Princess Christian and Princess Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, Lady Waterpark, the Earl of Beaconsfield, the Earl and Countess of Lytton, the Hon. Caroline Cavendish, Lord Methuen, Admiral Lord Frederic Kerr, Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, Major-General J. Ross, the Hon. Harriet Phipps, Viscount Bridport, Major-General Sir Frederick S. and Lady Roberts, Colonel T. D. Baker, and Captain F. I. Edwards. The Judge Advocate-General had an audience of the Queen, and Second Lieutenant W. K. W. Jenner, of the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, was presented to her Majesty by his father, Sir William Jenner.

The Princess of Wales, with her daughters, arrived at Windsor yesterday week, and the Prince of Wales arrived the next day. The Royal dinner party was augmented by Lady Waterpark, the Hon. Mrs. Francis Stonor, the Marquis of Hartington, Lord Methuen, Brigadier-General Hughes, Colonel C. G. Arbuthnot, and Captain F. I. and Mrs. Edwards.

On Sunday the Royal circle attended Divine service in the private chapel, the Rev. Edward Stuart Talbot, Warden of Keble College, Oxford, officiating. Princess Christian visited her Majesty; and the Royal dinner party included the Dean of Windsor and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley, and Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby.

The Prince of Wales came to London on Monday, returning to Windsor in the evening. Princess Louise of Lorne and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Strathearn arrived at the castle, with the Dean of Westminster, who joined the Royal dinner party. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh arrived the next morning.

Tuesday was the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort and of her Majesty's beloved daughter, Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse. The Queen and all the members of the Royal family at Windsor attended the special service performed in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore by the Dean of Windsor, after which the mausoleum was left open for three hours for the annual tribute of love to be paid by her Majesty's Household and others devoted to the memory of the beloved Prince. The Prince and Princess of Wales, with their daughters, left for Marlborough House, and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught also left for London.

Princess Louise of Lorne left on Wednesday morning for London.

The Queen has placed a sculptured memorial of the late Princess Alice in Prince Albert's mausoleum at Frogmore. It represents the Princess reposing upon a couch with her infant daughter, who died shortly after her, sleeping on her arm. The head of the Princess rests upon a pillow supported by angels' figures, and an inscription records the story of the death of the Princess.

The Court arrives at Osborne to-day (Saturday) for Christmas.

The Prince of Wales passed several days last week on a visit to Mrs. Gerard Leigh, who was entertaining a shooting party at Luton Hoo, Beds. His Royal Highness has made his usual annual presents of game to the hospitals.

Princess Christian and Princess Beatrice came to London for a few hours last Saturday.

The Duke of Edinburgh returned to Eastwell Park yesterday week, after visiting Viscount and Viscountess Holmsdale at their shooting-box, Riddlesworth Hall, Thetford. The Duchess of Edinburgh has consented to preside at the next distribution of prizes to the Savoy choir and day schools. The Prince of Wales's gold medal for swimming, and prizes gained by members of the Royal Savoy Club, will also be presented.

The Duke of Connaught has consented to preside at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society next February.

The Duke of Cambridge has returned to Gloucester House, from visiting Lord and Lady Dacre at the Hoo, Herts.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGES.

The marriages of Sir Reginald Archibald Edward Cathcart, Bart., of Carleton and Killochan Castle, Ayr (late Coldstream Guards), with Emily Eliza Steele, widow of the late Mr. John Gordon, of Cluny; and of the Hon. Geoffrey Richard C. Hill (late of the Royal Horse Guards), second and youngest son of the late Richard, third Viscount Hill, and brother of the present peer, with Mrs. de Winton, widow of the late Mr. Walter de Winton, of Maesllwch Castle, in the county of Radnor, have been solemnised by special license, within the last few days.

Marriages are arranged between Mr. Tommas Mosley, second son of Sir Tommas Mosley, Bart., and Lady Hilda Rose Montgomerie, youngest daughter of the late Earl of Eglinton and granddaughter of the Earl of Essex; and between Mr. Leopold de Rothschild and Miss Perugia, a younger sister of Mrs. Arthur Sassoon.

Mr. T. Mark Howell, on retiring from the post of Resident Medical Officer to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat and Chest, Golden-square, has received from the past and present patients of the hospital and from the resident staff a handsome clock and inkstand in recognition of his valuable services.



1. St. Andrew's, from the West Sands.
5. St. Regulus Tower.

2. Spindle Rock, near St. Andrew's.
6. College Church.

3. Ruins of Blackfriars' Chapel.
7. West Port.

4. The Whyte-Melville Memorial Fountain.
8. The Pends.



"REBEKAH AT THE WELL." BY F. GOODALL, R.A.
IN THE EXHIBITION AT THE FRENCH GALLERY.—SEE PAGE 597.

THE WHYTE-MELVILLE MEMORIAL, ST. ANDREW'S.

The late Major George John Whyte-Melville, of the Coldstream Guards, was one of the most accomplished and genial men of the day; author of many literary creations of high merit, a successful novelist, and not less distinguished as a gallant sportsman, and an agreeable gentleman in private society. He died about two years ago, on Dec. 5, 1878, from injuries by a fall in the hunting-field, near Tetbury, in Gloucestershire. His portrait, with a brief memoir, appeared in this Journal on Dec. 28 of that year. Some of his works, "The Gladiators," "Holmby House," and "The Queen's Maids," historical romances; "The Interpreter," a tale of the Crimean War; "Kate Coventry," "Digby Grand," and "Good-for-Nothing," stories of modern social life, are likely to keep their popularity for another generation. He was also a poet of more than tolerable excellence; wrote some of the best English hunting-songs that ever delighted a party of sportsmen at a hunt dinner, after a fine day with the fox-hounds or stag-hounds; and tried his skill in a translation of the Odes of Horace. He was in the Guards from 1839 to 1849, when he retired, but in the Russian War of 1855 and 1856 held a command of Turkish Cavalry. At the time of his death he was about fifty-seven years of age, being eldest son of John Whyte-Melville, Esq., of Bennoch and Strath-Kinness, Fifeshire, formerly of the 9th Lancers, Major of the Royal Fifeshire Yeomanry Cavalry, and Captain of the St. Andrew's troop of Fife Mounted Rifle Volunteers. The mother of the late Major Whyte-Melville was Lady Catherine Osborne, youngest daughter of the fifth Duke of Leeds. To this lady, her son, a short time before his accidental sudden death, addressed the following verses, which have a very touching interest, and which were, it is believed, the last that he wrote:—

Falling leaf and fading tree,
Lines of white in a sullen sea,
Shadows rising on you and me;
The swallows are making them ready to fly,
Wheeling out on a windy sky.
Good-bye, Summer! Good-bye, good-bye!

Hush! A voice from the far-away!
"Listen and learn," it seems to say;
"All the to-morrow shall be as to-day."
The cord is frayed—the cruse is dry,
The link must break, and the lamp must die.
Good-bye, Hope! Good-bye, good-bye!

What are we waiting for? Oh! my heart!
Kiss me straight on the brows! And part!
Again! Again!—my heart! my heart!
What are we waiting for, you and I?
A pleading look—a stifled cry.
Good-bye, for ever! Good-bye, good-bye!

Not long after his death, a large number of his friends and admirers, including Lord Wolverton, Colonel Thomson of Charleston, the Duke of Beaufort, Earl Spencer, Lord Bateman, Lord Dorchester, the Marquis of Hartington, and other noblemen and gentlemen, with Principals Tulloch and Sharp, of St. Andrew's, Mr. Blackwood, of Edinburgh, Mr. Anthony Trollope, and others connected with literature, started a subscription for a Whyte-Melville Memorial. It was supported by many persons of rank and influence, from the Prince of Wales and other Princes downwards; and a fund was raised, which has been devoted to several different works; a monument in the town of St. Andrew's, being near the native place of the deceased; one over his grave in Tetbury Churchyard; one in the Guards' Chapel at Wellington Barracks, London; and an annuity fund connected with the Hunt Servants' Benevolent Society. The St. Andrew's monument is a fountain, with an upper and lower basin, of red sandstone and granite, carved with water-plants, and bearing a white marble medallion portrait, and other medallions showing an inscription and shields of arms, supported by five clustered granite pillars, above and below. It was designed by Mr. Edis, F.S.A., of London; the carving was executed by Mr. Earp, sculptor; and the medallion portrait by Mr. J. C. Boehm, A.R.A.; Mr. Wallis, of London, superintended the erection. We give an illustration of the Whyte-Melville Memorial, in the centre of a page of Engravings of St. Andrew's.

A view of that interesting ancient Scottish University town and cathedral city of former ages is presented at the top of the page, as beheld from the West Sands. Among its romantic features of antiquity are the ruins of the cathedral and of the castle; the old church tower of St. Rule, or St. Regulus, the reputed founder of this place in the fourteenth century; the chapel of the Blackfriars Monastery; and several gateways of the city or the cloisters. Some of these are shown in the illustrations now presented; others furnished a page of Mr. S. Read's "Leaves from a Sketchbook," published a few years ago, the contents of which had previously appeared in this Journal.

Mr. Loftus Monro, the head master of the Woolwich High Schools, has been appointed an Inspector of Schools.

With the Christmas Number of *Life*, published this week, is presented a phototype, "Charles Dickens Reading to his Daughters."

Her Majesty has again signified her approbation of the work of the Female School of Art by buying a life study in water colour. The annual exhibition will be held on the 22nd and 23rd instant.

A game combining amusement with instruction has been issued by Mr. John Banting Rogers, of St. Clement's House, Lombard-street. It is called "A Voyage Round the World," and is played on a chart, on which rocks, cyclones, and other impediments are marked, with ships for counters. The game is capable of several variations, and log-books are supplied for the purpose of marking.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the first week in December was 91,521, of whom 50,098 were in workhouses, and 40,426 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding week in the year 1879, these figures show a decrease of 750, but, as compared with 1878 and 1877, an increase of 8348 and 9538 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 869, of whom 664 were men, 174 women, and 31 children under sixteen.

The "Post Office London Directory for the Year 1881," being the eighty-second annual publication by Messrs. Kelly and Co., does not require fresh recommendation. Its several departments, the Street Directory, the Official, the Commercial, the Trades (classified), the Court, the Law, Clerical, City, Banking, Assurance, Postage, Conveyance, and Press Directories, are familiarly known to the majority of Londoners. It is not, perhaps, sufficiently observed that beyond the limits of this work, including Chelsea and Kensington west, Bow and Blackheath east, Highbury and Holloway north, and Kennington south, recourse must be had to the Suburban Directory, which extends to twelve miles around the General Post Office. The Map of London is now mounted on linen, and will not be so liable to be torn out of the volume.

THE RECESS.

If there be wisdom in a multitude of counsellors, then should the frequent deliberations of Cabinet Ministers of late be productive of an infinite quantity of political sagacity. The little house in Downing-street has on several days this week been the cynosure of every eye which delights in furtive glimpses of her Majesty's Ministers. Imaginative public writers on Monday hastily jumped to the conclusion that Parliament would have to meet before Christmas, in consequence of the lawlessness which still obtains in certain parts of Ireland. They were wrong. Our hereditary and elected legislators will not be called upon to assemble at St. Stephen's until Jan. 6—for "business of the first importance," according to Mr. Gladstone; for "matters of moment," alliteratively says Lord Beaconsfield. Public opinion, with reason, assumes that the engrossing "business" and "matters" in question are closely connected with the unhappy condition of affairs in Ireland, the latest intelligence wherefrom will be found in another column.

Sir Hardinge Giffard, in a conciliatory speech at Norwood on Tuesday, so far differed from Lord Salisbury's satirical attacks on the Government that he suggested the co-operation of both parties to restore order in Ireland. Of the many other utterances of public men, the most noteworthy have been Lord Lytton's vigorous defence of his Afghan policy at a Volunteer gathering on Tuesday; Sir Charles Dilke's clear and thoughtful exposition of the foreign policy of the Government before his constituents in the new Kensington Town-hall on Monday evening; Mr. Fawcett's narration at Hackney on Tuesday of the success of his Penny Postage Stamp Savings Bank scheme; the characteristic criticisms passed by Mr. R. Bourke and Mr. James Lowther on Ministerial doings at Haddington and West Hartlepool on Monday; and Sir Wilfrid Lawson's sweeping condemnation of the House of Lords for opposing reform in Ireland.

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Mr. Adam's successor as First Commissioner of Works, was on Tuesday re-elected, without opposition, for Reading. The same day, Mr. J. Cropper (L.) and Mr. A. Harris (C.) were nominated for Kendal, the voting being fixed for Thursday. The other side of the picture was revealed at Evesham, where Mr. Lehmann was on Monday declared unsent for bribery, and where Mr. Hartland had next to undergo the ordeal of an inquisitorial inquiry.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Mrs. Loyd-Lindsay distributed prizes to members of the Hon. Artillery Company, in the large hall of the Company, City-road, on the 9th inst. Colonel Loyd-Lindsay addressed the volunteers.

The annual presentation of prizes in connection with the London Irish Rifles, of which the Duke of Connaught is honorary Colonel and the Marquis of Donegall is Colonel Commandant, took place on the 10th inst. at St. James's Hall.

There were three distributions to important Metropolitan regiments, representing respectively the different arms of the force, on Saturday evening in London. First, in point of time as in seniority, was that of the 3rd Royal Middlesex Artillery, which, for the first time, was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street. The prize distribution to the 19th Middlesex (Bloomsbury) Rifles took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. Major General Higginson, commanding the home district, presided; and Colonel Dawson-Scott, commanding Royal Engineers for the Home District, distributed the prizes of the 1st Middlesex Engineers, at their head-quarters in Chelsea.

Lord Enfield, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, and hon. Colonel of the regiment, presided on Monday at the twentieth annual distribution of prizes to the North Middlesex Rifles, at St. Pancras Vestry-hall, and in the course of his remarks said, there are now something like half a million of men who have passed through the volunteer ranks, and at the present time the force numbers 205,410 enrolled members, out of which number 196,101 are efficient.

At a distribution of prizes to the 23rd Middlesex Volunteers, in St. James's Hall, on Tuesday, Lord Lytton spoke at some length on the Afghan war, and urged that England should not give up the political and military advantages which General Roberts and the others had won.

A useful suggestion was made on Tuesday at the dinner of the V battery of the Naval Artillery Volunteers at the Holborn Restaurant, Lieut. Charles E. Seth Smith being in the chair. Mr. John Pender, M.P., and Lord Ashley were among the visitors; and his Lordship threw out the hint to the authorities that Volunteer Batteries ought to be formed in every port, and that each should be instructed in torpedo warfare, so that in a few hours every harbour in the kingdom might be made impregnable with the celerity the Germans had lately shown, in his Lordship's presence, in placing torpedoes for the defence of Kiel.

A musical burlesque, entitled "The Merry Andria," founded on Terence's comedy of the "Andria," the Westminster play for this year, was performed last Saturday at the rooms of the Dilettante Club, Argyle-street, before a large audience. The principal character (Davus) was represented with much "go" by Miss Tiny White, who also spoke, or rather sang, the prologue, which was a comic song. Songs and dances sustained the liveliness of the little play, which was received with great laughter and applause. "Lady Audley's Secret," a drama by Mr. C. Hazlewood, founded on Miss Braddon's novel, followed.

Lord Chief Justice Coleridge delivered judgment on Monday in the case of Mr. Dale, the result being that the application for release from custody was refused on all the points raised, and Mr. Dale is taken back to prison. It will be remembered that counsel for Mr. Dale rested their application on four main points—viz., that Lord Penzance was not entitled to exercise jurisdiction, inasmuch as he had not complied with the requirements of the Canons of 1603-4 by taking the prescribed oaths and signing his adherence to the Thirty-nine Articles; that the Bishop of Exeter could not legally act for both the Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury; that the monition and inhibition were not properly set out and were void by technical inaccuracy; and, lastly, that the Judge was not provided with any statutory power of enforcing his judgments. With relentless facility the Court set every one of these contentions aside. The Lord Chief Justice considered each argument of Mr. Dale's counsel in detail, and showed that it had no foundation in law. Mr. Justice Field said Lord Penzance had no alternative but to do as he had done, and had exercised the power which the Legislature intended he should exercise. Mr. Justice Manisty concluded his judgment by the expression of the hope that contumacious clerks in holy orders would consider whether they ought not to resign their benefices and become Nonconformists.—The case of Mr. Enraght followed that of Mr. Dale, with a similar result.

HOME NEWS.

The Government has granted a loan of £200,000 for the improvement of the port and harbour of Newry.

Dr. Andrew Clark has been elected to the office of consulting physician to the Chelsea Hospital for Women, and Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, to the office of consulting surgeon.

Mr. H. W. Merry, Fellow and Tutor of Lincoln College, Oxford, has been elected Public Orator of the University, in succession to the late Mr. Dallin.

The *Standard* understands that the president and council of the Royal Geographical Society have under consideration the plans for an Arctic expedition.

The Charity Organisation Society held a meeting on Monday, and passed a resolution asking the Government for a rearrangement of the City Parochial Charities.

The annual illustrated number of the *Publisher's Circular* contains 108 pages of illustrations, in addition to a vast amount of information of great importance to publishers of all kinds.

The arrivals of live stock and fresh meat from the United States and Canada last week were considerably below those of the preceding week.

The working men of Derby have presented Mr. M. T. Bass, M.P., with a model of the free public library and museum which he recently presented to the town at a cost of £25,000.

Viscountess Folkestone gave a concert yesterday week at All Saints', Priory-grove, Wandsworth-road, in aid of the funds of the London and South-Western Railway Institute and Club.

The Christmas number of *Home* contains a capital ghost story by the editor, Mrs. Riddell; and contributions by Mrs. Oliphant, Miss Thackeray, the author of "John Halifax," Frederick Locker, and other authors of note.

Count Münster presided last week at the Freemasons' Tavern, at the annual festival of the German Society of Benevolence, which was established in 1817 for the relief of distressed Germans in London. The subscriptions amounted to £800.

Mr. William Jenkyns, of Aberdeen, has given to the Aberdeen University an endowment of £200 for a prize in Classical Philology in memory of his son, who lately perished at Cabul. The prize will be known as the Jenkyns Prize.

The Controller of the Post Office Savings Bank, replying to a correspondent, intimates that applications to invest in Government stock on behalf of minors under seven years of age cannot be entertained.

An address was given by Sir Richard Temple on the "Statistics of the Indian Empire," at the evening meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, held on Tuesday at the Grosvenor Gallery Library.

Under the Act of Parliament recently obtained by the Corporation of Liverpool, they have decided to make the experiment of lighting a large portion of the city by electricity, and they have accordingly invited tenders for lighting all the important thoroughfares from Feb. 1 next.

Mr. C. McLaren, M.P., presided at a meeting held yesterday week at the Dilettante Club, Argyle-street, in support of the claims of women to the Parliamentary franchise. The speakers included Miss Müller, of the London School Board, and Mrs. Ashton Dilke. A resolution in support of the object was passed, and a petition to the House of Commons was agreed to.

Last month the officers of the Fishmongers' Company seized at and near Billingsgate and on board boats lying off that market 33 tons 11 cwt. of fish as unfit for human food. Of this all but 3 cwt. arrived by land. The fish numbered 137,508, including 84 cod, 20 crabs, 1100 dabs, 2441 gurnets, 4490 haddocks, 400 herrings, 274 lobsters, 419 plaice, 280 skate, 118,400 smelts, and 9600 whiting. In addition, there were seized 15 barrels of anchovies, 134 of oysters, and 70 of sprats, 10 bags of cockles, 1 of oysters, 22 of periwinkles, and 1 of whelks, 124 lb. of eels, and 14 gallons of shrimps.

Last week 2461 births and 1398 deaths were registered in London. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 20 and the deaths no less than 418 below the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. The deaths included 12 from smallpox, 51 from measles, 61 from scarlet fever, 8 from diphtheria, 29 from whooping-cough, 9 from different forms of fever, and 16 from diarrhoea. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 367 and 334 in the two preceding weeks, further declined to 295 last week, and were 202 below the corrected weekly average: 169 resulted from bronchitis and 78 from pneumonia.

At the weekly meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, held yesterday week—Sir J. M. Hogg, M.P., in the chair—the board resolved to contribute £6400 towards the cost of an improvement to be carried out by the City Commissioners of Sewers in Lime-street and Fenchurch-street. Permission was given to the Vicar and churchwardens of St. Matthew's Church, Bayswater, for the re-erection of the church in St. Petersburg-place. The drawings submitted by Mr. Sefton Parry for the construction of a new theatre on two plots in Northumberland-avenue were approved. They have received a return from their consulting chemist showing that the general illuminating power of gas throughout the metropolis during the past week was above the standard required by law.

General Sir F. Roberts was present yesterday week at a dinner given by the City Library Committee at the Albion Tavern, and, in responding to the toast of "The Army," said that the welcome given him would be received by his troops generally as a recognition of the services they had rendered in the field and the hardships they had undergone. The sympathy shown them had a material effect on the tone of our troops.—On Saturday the Dublin University Senate conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. upon General Roberts.—On Tuesday General Roberts was admitted to the freedom of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and was subsequently entertained at a banquet. Sir Frederick, in acknowledging the honour conferred on him, observed that it was by such rewards that soldiers were reminded that they were also citizens, and were identified with the glory of their country. Of the personal character of the Army he spoke highly. Lord Lytton also spoke.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, Captain Holdich, R.E., lately in charge of the surveys in Afghanistan, read a paper on the geographical results of the Afghan Campaign. Sir H. Rawlinson, the chairman, reminded the meeting, before the paper was proceeded with, that politics were not admitted into the discussions in that society. They would not therefore enter into the general question of Afghan policy, or the burning question of retaining or giving up Candahar. The gallant officer stated that from a commercial, political, or military standpoint, Candahar was the most important place in Afghanistan, but geographically it might be said to indicate the weak spot in the Afghan frontier. Compared with Candahar, Cabul was but an arsenal. In the discussion which ensued Sir Richard Temple alluded to the facilities which Afghanistan offered for the construction of military roads, and remarked that those facilities broke upon them a couple of years ago almost like a revelation.

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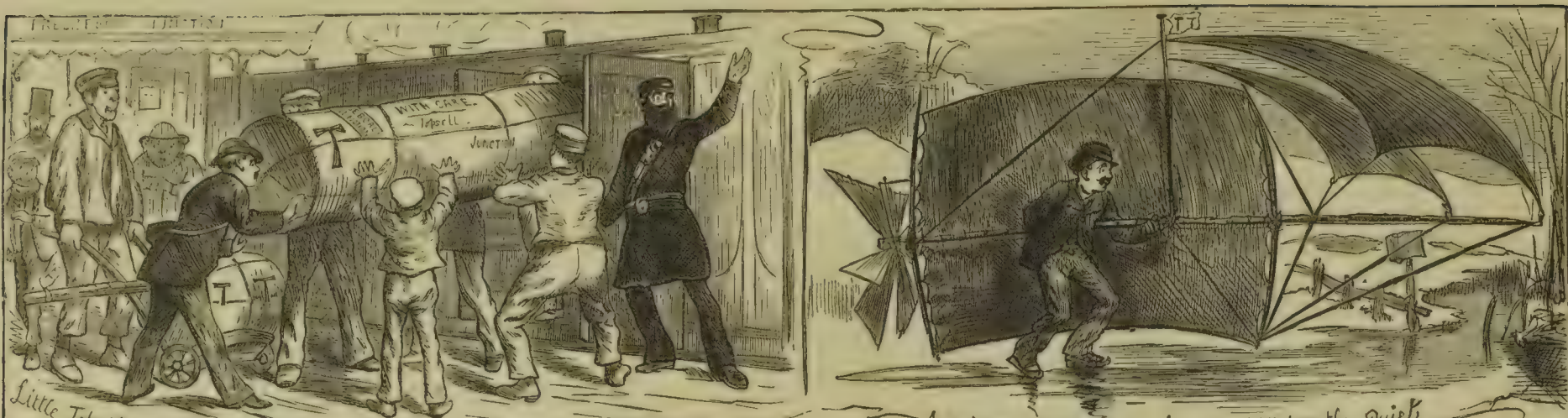
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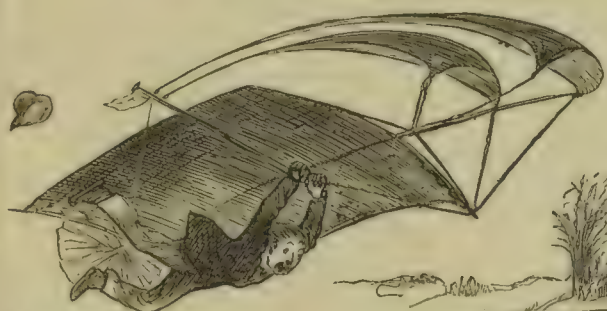
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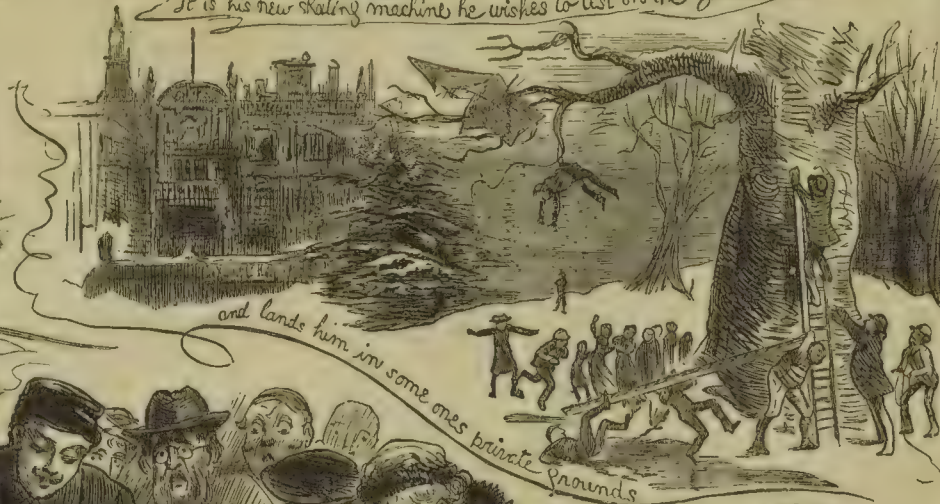


Little Topsell arrives in the country at Christmas with something mysterious

It is his new skating machine he wishes to test on the quiet



But it turns into a flying one!



and lands him in some one's private grounds



He falls, and cuts a figure in the ice



And turns out to find his old friends the Cutters



Topsell spends a merry Christmas at Cutter Hall



Before leaving, he induces Miss Cutter to try the machine with him



But with the same result



Of course they fall in love

Harry Furniss

THE LATE LIEUTENANT W. P. L. HEYLAND, R.N.

The death of this esteemed naval officer, serving on board H.M.S. Minotaur, in the Channel Squadron, has occasioned much regret. While crossing from Queenstown to Vigo, the squadron encountered terrific weather. On the 25th ult. it was deemed prudent to take in the jibbooms, in consequence of the excessive pitching. While assisting in this, a seaman was washed overboard from the Minotaur. Life-buoys and lines were thrown to him, and Lieutenant Heyland sprang off the poop with a line and reached the man, who had already gained a buoy. Mr. Heyland passed him the end, and they were both being hauled in, when, unhappily, Mr. Heyland was struck by the ship's stern, and fell back stunned. He instantly sank, and was not again seen. Mr. Heyland had received the bronze and silver medals of the Humane Society for saving other lives. An official letter from Vice-Admiral Hood describes the manner in which, by "a most gallant act," this officer lost his own life, as above narrated.

The Portrait is from a photograph by Messrs. Symonds and Co., of Portsmouth.



THE LATE LIEUTENANT W. P. L. HEYLAND, R.N.

THE YORKSHIRE COLLEGE, LEEDS.

This college was founded in 1874. It supplies for Yorkshire the kind of higher education which Owens College, Manchester, provides for Lancashire, together with instruction in such branches of technology as are of the greatest practical value in Yorkshire. It has also a department of medicine, in conjunction with the Leeds Medical School. It gives theoretical and practical training in civil and mechanical engineering, coal-mining, weaving and designing woollen and cotton manufactures, and dyeing. The teaching staff includes seven professors, two lecturers, three chief instructors, and eleven assistants. The classes and laboratories are open to both sexes. We learn that in many cases the lady students have taken the first places in examinations. The total number in the day classes during the last session was 586, in addition to which there are evening students; and evening lectures of a more popular kind are occasionally delivered, some to large audiences. The Professors also lecture in other Yorkshire towns.

The Yorkshire College needing a permanent and convenient habitation at Leeds, a building site, three acres and a half in extent, was purchased at a cost of £13,000. On part of this site the Clothworkers' Guild of London, which has assumed the maintenance of the textile industries and dyeing departments at an annual cost of £1250, has erected four blocks of handsome and well-lighted buildings. It has endowed and furnished them with the most approved machinery and teaching appliances, the whole at a total cost of £15,000. The main block contains, on the ground floor, a class-room, with desks and seats for ninety students, and a room of similar size fitted up with thirty small hand-loom. On the first floor are a museum for the department, the instructors' private rooms, the students' common room, and a drawing office. The second block consists of a weaving-shed, 80 ft. long by 36 ft. wide, the roof lighted from the north, and containing fifteen large hand-loom and six power-loom; adjoining the shed is the engine-house, containing a 3½-horse power gas engine. The third block is devoted to dyeing. It contains a dye-house, fitted with 120 steam-heated dyeing vessels for students engaged in practical dyeing. A smaller apartment is furnished as a chemical store and weighing room. A detached lavatory constitutes the fourth block. The funds of the college being appropriated in maintaining the teaching work, a special building fund is now being raised for the erection of a further large section of buildings sufficient to accommodate all the other existing departments.

The opening of the new buildings, on Friday, the 3rd inst., was presided over by Lord Frederick Cavendish, M.P., and was attended by the Master of the Clothworkers' Company and by Sir Edward Baines, who has requested that the £3000, subscribed for a personal memorial to himself, may be given to this college; Sir Charles Reed, M.P., and Mr. Mundella, M.P., also took part in these proceedings.

There are 6700 candidates for the Cambridge University local examinations this month, 4077 being boys and 2693 girls.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY.

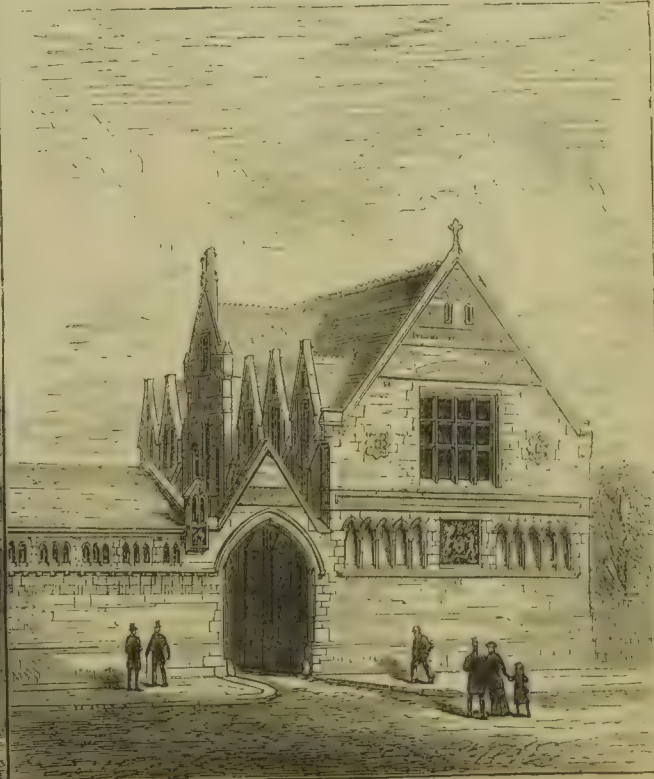
The farcical fancy of a Comic Artist, on the opposite page, has ventured upon a flight of invention which can only be tolerated in the season of Christmas Extravaganzas. We have decided, however, to submit it to the indulgence of holiday readers, in the hope that they may enjoy a few minutes' harmless entertainment at the expense of Mr. Titus Topsell, leaving to him the patent and sole responsibility of his "new skating machine," as he had to endure the terrific consequences of a personal experiment, tried in a high wind over the neighbourhood of Cutter Hall, Freezeborough, the abode of some hospitable friends. It will be remembered, we trust, by readers of this Journal, that last winter, on Jan. 31, we gave an illustration of "Sailing on Skates," which is a sport recently introduced from Norway or Canada into this country, and some account of which had previously appeared in the *Field* newspaper. By the contrivance of one or two skaters—a lady and gentleman could do it together, if so inclined—holding up a piece of canvass, 7 ft. by 5 ft. in size, stretched upon a light framework, they may, with a favouring breeze, find themselves carried at great speed over the ice, with the slightest exertion of their own strength. Now Mr. Titus Topsell, whose yachting experiences, we must again remind our readers, were humorously delineated by the pencil of Mr. Harry Furniss on Aug. 21 of this year, seems to have also become emulous of this novel practice of ice-sailing, and to have constructed a special machine for the purpose. He arrives with it, packed in a great bundle, at the Freezeborough railway station, and goes forth alone to try its working powers. We observe that it is furnished with some additions and improvements, a jib-boom with sprit-sails, and a steering-rudder or screw-propeller, whichever it may be, at the aft end of the horizontal pole. It has, indeed, been rendered only too powerful; for it proves to be a flying-machine—a kite, of such irresistible capability that

poor little Topsell is lifted up into the air, and is whirled away, over the meadows and hamlets of Frostyshire, till the wind lulls suddenly and drops him in somebody's private grounds. His fall, to be sure, is upon no solid ground, but at first upon the branch of a tree, and from that to the frozen surface of a pond; into which, crashing through the ice, he descends head foremost; but he is soon dragged out, not quite so dead as might be expected, by an amazed family party, with their Christmas visitors, who sojourn at Cutter Hall. It is well for Mr. Topsell that he has fallen, literally fallen, into such kind and gentle hands as the Cutters, some of whom are his old acquaintance, having been with him on board the yacht, when he got his ducking in the sea. They nurse him carefully, sending up gruel to the patient in bed on Christmas Day, till he has been cured of a very bad cold, and is disposed once more to make trial of his skating ship. We now perceive, with no small anxiety, that Miss Cutter is persuaded to embark along with him on this perilous voyage. They are a pair of rash young persons, and everybody knows what their fate is sure to be. "Of course they fall—in love." We wish them safely out of it, or in it, so far as this can make them happy.

"REBEKAH AT THE WELL."

How often has not this subject been painted before this present version of it by Mr. Frederick Goodall, R.A., which we engrave from the Exhibition at the French Gallery? By painters mediæval and modern, English and foreign, the primitive wooing of Rebekah by Isaac has ever been a favourite theme. By Mr. Goodall himself it had already been treated in a beautiful picture, well known by the engraving, in which, however, he chose a later moment of the Biblical idyll for representation—the moment when the servant of Isaac, in an attitude of Oriental obeisance, is proffering the rich presents of the patriarch, his master. Yet often, and variously as the subject has been dealt with, this present illustration strikes us as novel and fresh, if only on account of the appropriate simplicity of the conception, and the entirely Eastern character of the type, costume, and locality depicted. Rebekah is here seen as the servant of Isaac found her, but before he has saluted her. That she discerns his approach is, however, imaginatively suggested by the involuntary gesture of maidenly modesty with which she seeks to draw her falling head-gear more closely over her face. That face in its dark rich tinge, as well as in its character of beauty, is such as we naturally associate with the sunny Orient; it has not the pallor of other female faces from the same clime, as rendered by the same artist. Her costume, her water-jars, and the well, with its domical roof, are, or at least the latter are, precisely what Mr. Goodall has seen in his journeys to the Holy Land. But this realism, or fidelity to contemporary facts which are in themselves pictorial, and possess all the pure simplicity of historical or monumental art, so far from repressing, rather stimulates the imagination. For so unchangeable, we know, is the East, that we may safely say to ourselves that as stands this, if you will, modern Syrian maiden beside a village well, with her hand raised to veil her countenance from a passer-by or stranger Frank, so stood the future mother of Israel when she saw the servant of her lord drawing nigh, thousands of years back in the dim past.

A bazaar of a somewhat novel kind was opened by Lady Bolsover at Nottingham on Thursday week. It is for the benefit of the funds of the Town and County Social Guild, an institution which was formed some years ago for the purpose of uniting various charitable and philanthropic agencies at work in the district. The Albert Hall, in which the bazaar is held, has been made to represent a street of the "olden time." On each side of the hall is scenery representing a row of old-fashioned houses of two storeys, the lower of which is used for the stalls, while at one end of the hall stands a feudal castle and at the other end an Elizabethan mansion. The ladies presiding at the stalls are dressed in costumes of a past age. Besides the Baroness Bolsover, there were present at the opening ceremony the Duke of Portland, the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans, Colonel Seeley, M.P., Sir James Oldknow, the Mayor and Sheriff of Nottingham, and a large number of the leading townspeople.



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CONDITIONS.

1. No person shall be entitled to a Prize who shall not, before attempting their solution, have first subscribed for or purchased a set of the Puzzles. And anyone allowing another to use his or her Puzzles shall be disqualified to receive a Prize.
2. No person shall receive more than one Prize.
3. To entitle any one to either of the Prizes of £500, £200, or £100, the solutions of Puzzles 3, 4, 5, and 6 must have been perfectly accomplished. For either of the next five Prizes of £50, £35, £25, £15, and £10, Puzzles 4, 5, and 6 must have been properly solved. The remaining 1024 Prizes of £10, &c., may be gained by correctly solving Puzzles 3, 4, and 5.
4. Competitors for the Prizes must forward their solutions of the Puzzles, with their names and addresses, sealed up and post-free, to "Author," Educational Prize Trust, 68, Pall-mall, London, S.W., and also inclose the printed copy of "Six Progressive Educational Puzzles." See condition 10.
5. Competitors whose solutions of the Puzzles are of equal merit, and who have complied with these conditions, will be awarded the Prizes in the order in which their solutions shall have been posted to the Author, as evidenced by the date of the post-mark.
6. In the event of two or more solutions of equal merit, entitling the parties to two or more of the Prizes being received, and bearing the same postal date, the amounts of such Prizes shall be added together and equally divided between or amongst them.
7. Each person claiming a prize shall, if so required, make a declaration that he or she subscribed for or purchased a set of the Puzzles before attempting their solution, that they solved them entirely by their own unaided skill, and that they had not made known, and will not, directly or indirectly, make known to anyone who has not solved their solutions of the Puzzles, or either of them, until after the time appointed for distribution of the Prizes. The author, on his part, hereby declaring that he has not divulged, and will not divulge to anyone, the solutions of the Puzzles until after such time.
8. In order to afford ample time for the whole of the 1032 Prizes to be gained, the successful competitors will not be declared until March 23, 1881, when notice of the same will appear in one or more of the public journals circulating in London, New York, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, and Madrid. Competitors who so desire may adopt a motto not exceeding twenty-one letters, for insertion in the public journals in lieu of their names.
9. All Prizes not claimed within one month after the same shall have been announced in the public journals shall be absolutely forfeited, and the amount, together with such balance of the Prize Fund (if any), for which Prizes may not have been gained within the specified time, shall, immediately thereafter, be paid over to the "ROYAL LITERARY FUND" and the "NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND" in equal moieties.
10. As the sale of spurious sets of the Puzzles would be prejudicial to the Prize-holders, by curtailing the amount of the Prizes, as announced above, each person at the time of purchasing a set must examine the copy of "Six Progressive Educational Puzzles," and see that "W. Watts" appears in the water-mark of the paper on which it is printed, as no spurious copy will entitle the holder to a Prize.
11. All solutions sent in by competitors must be marked at the back of the envelope with the word "Solution," sealed and addressed to "Author," and such letters will be numbered and lodged with the Bankers in the order they are received, and will remain unopened until March 15, 1881.

Apart from the incentive of gaining £500, or any other of the Prizes offered, the Puzzles are most amusing and instructive.

These Puzzles are most strongly recommended to Families and Schools as a quiet indoor amusement, and especially suitable for wet weather, when every member may be silently and profitably engaged in their solution with a fair chance of gaining a Prize.

To soldiers in barracks, as also to sailors in their frequent compulsory furloughs, the Puzzles may help to pass the many weary hours, too often spent in a less profitable manner. It is considered that the chances of gaining a Prize will stimulate the men to the study of numbers, and further tend to their enlightenment and moral elevation.

If the number of Prizes gained by the various nationalities, and their respective Armies and Navies, be taken as any indication of their relative intelligence and education, the result may be looked forward to with much interest. Shall England or America stand first on the list? Germany, France, Italy, or Spain? and which of their respective Armies and Navies?

In order to promote, as much as possible, the friendly competition amongst the latter, the Puzzles will be supplied in packets of sixty and one hundred, at a reduction in price, to all Officers who may desire to give their men so wholesome an amusement, and at the same time a fair chance of obtaining one of the numerous Prizes offered.

National pride alone should enlist a large number of competitors.

The six Puzzles, with full directions for arranging them, also sixty-four numbered squares, and a board, and sixty-four diagrams of the completed Puzzle No. 6, may be had free by post for 24 Penny Stamps, or P.O.O. for 2s., payable at the G.P.O., to

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THE PUREST. THE MOST EFFICACIOUS. THE MOST PALATABLE. THE MOST DIGESTIBLE. Proved by thirty years' medical experience to be THE ONLY COD-LIVER OIL which produces the full curative effects in

CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, THROAT AFFECTIONS, GENERAL DEBILITY, AND WASTING DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

SELECT MEDICAL OPINIONS.

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"The value of **DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD-LIVER OIL** as a therapeutic agent in a number of diseases, chiefly of an exhaustive character, has been admitted by the world of medicine; but, in addition, I have found it a remedy of great power in the treatment of many Affections of the Throat and Larynx, especially in Consumption of the latter, where it will sustain life when everything else fails."

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"I have long been aware of the great reputation enjoyed by the **LIGHT-BROWN COD-LIVER OIL** introduced into medical practice by **DR. DE JONGH**, and have recommended it with the utmost confidence. I have no hesitation in stating my opinion, that it possesses all the qualities of a good and efficient medicine. Its taste is by no means disagreeable, and might even be called pleasant. I have found **DR. DE JONGH'S OIL** very useful in cases of Chronic Cough, and especially in Laryngeal Disease complicated with Consumption."

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It was, indeed, a "happy thought" of its manufacturers to stamp it with its own name on every yard, for, having once made a trial of it, we shall not desire to become the purchasers of any other, and there are so many new kinds in the market that there is plenty of competition. Many ladies have adopted the

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Ladies are respectfully informed that on and after this date all Louis Velveteen, both Black and the New Autumn and Winter Colours, have stamped on the back plain instructions for renewing all creases, foldings, marks, &c., made in conveyance by rail, post, or other causes.

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Sugarless, and when made of the

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In 1 oz., 2 oz., and 4 oz. Packets, lined with tinfoil.

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CURE COUGHS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.

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Pianoforte. Five Octaves. F to F, Check Action. Trichord Treble. Price FIFTEEN GUINEAS. The compass is sufficient for classical music—the whole of Mozart's and contemporaneous works being written within the five octaves F to F.

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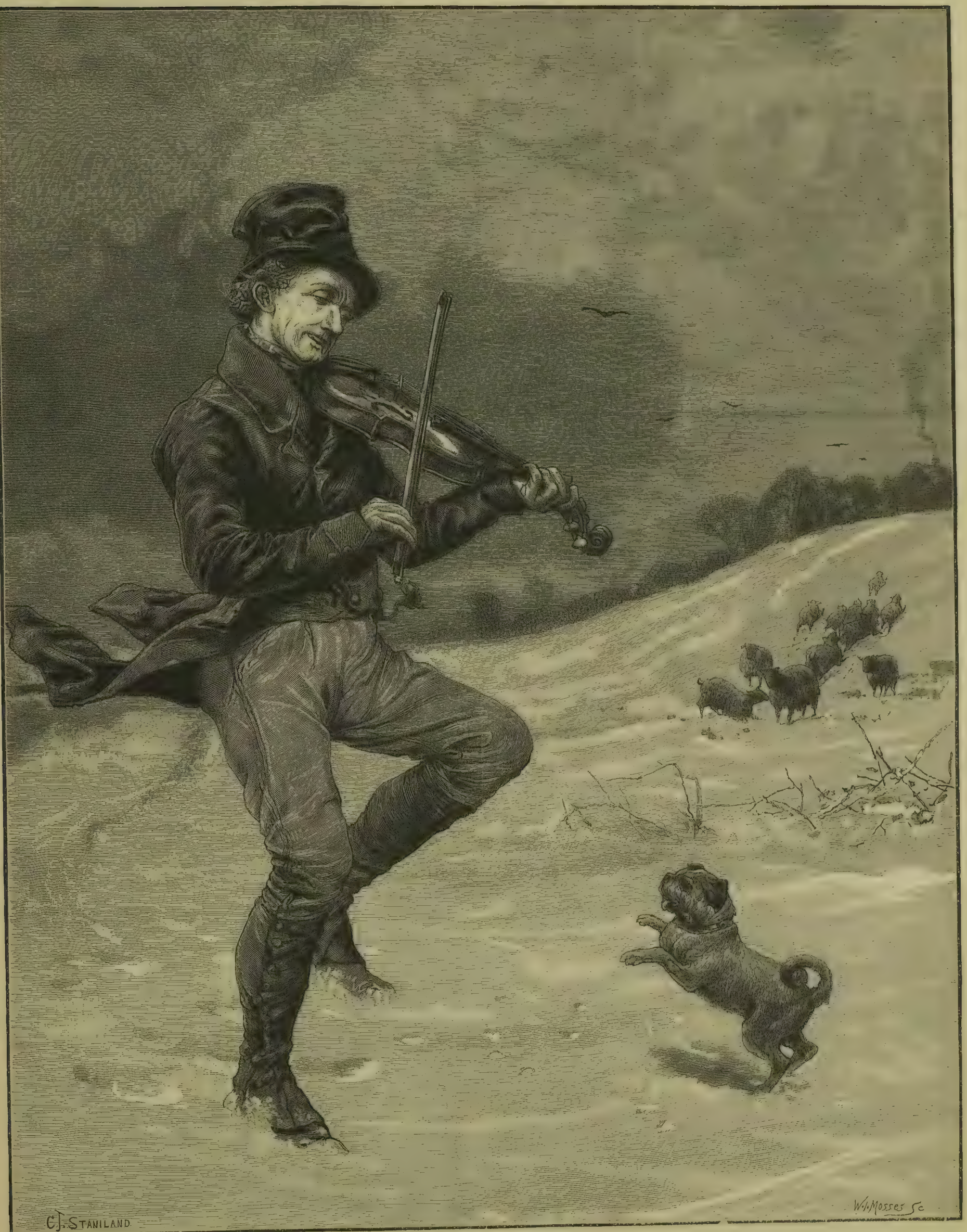
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CHRISTMASTIDE.

Christmas is at hand; and we are already reminded of its approach by the return of the waits, who have commenced their nocturnal perambulations; and from the gay appearance which the shops have assumed, with their sundry dainty nick-nacks and copious display of Christmas Cards. The Pantomimes, too, are announced, and the usual miscellaneous assortment of entertainments adapted for all classes—old and young. Christmastide is, also, rich in its associations, and more customs and legendary lore have clustered round this season than any other festival of the year; not to mention that host of superstitions still credited by country peasantry, and love-sick maidens anxious to catch a glimpse of their future lot in life.

Although, year by year, much is written on this festive season, yet its annual advent is always welcomed by a renewed eagerness to hear something of its primitive history, and the many odd ways with which it is celebrated, here and there, throughout the country. The name given by the ancient Goths and Saxons to their festival of the winter solstice was Yule or Yule—a word still used in Scotland for Christmas, and occurring in the phrase Yule-log. The term Yule is probably derived from the Gothic word signifying wheel—the Yule festival receiving its name from its being the turning-point of the year. Chronologists have long been divided as to the precise day of the Nativity; some having fixed it at the Passover, and others at the Feast of Tabernacles. At any rate, from the earliest ages of the Church the 25th of December has been the day most generally observed.

Referring to some of the chief observances with which the festival was honoured in times past may be mentioned the Lord of Misrule, who was a highly important personage, having the entire management of the various festivities, and the mummers, who went about the country performing grotesque plays. Then, too, there were the wassail-bowl, the Christmas carols and merry songs, and those diverse sports and pastimes which were shared in common by high and low, rich and poor. We might further mention the extensive decoration of houses, and old Tusser's admonition—"Get ivy and holly, woman; deck up thine house." Stow tells us how, against the feast of Christmas, "every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivy, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the year afforded to be green."

Christmas has been, from time immemorial, a season of feasting and joviality; mince-pies, roast beef, plum-pudding, and its precursor, plum-porridge, being noticed as some of the chief articles of fare. Although the boar's head, peacock, and bustard have almost disappeared, yet the turkey is as proverbially a fowl in season now as the goose at Michaelmas or Martinmas. Thus, Gay puts the following complaint into the mouth of the turkey:—

But man, cursed man, on Turkey preys,
And Christmas shortens all our days;
From the low peasant to the lord,
The Turkey smokes on every board.

An old writer, describing the hospitality that formerly characterised this season, says:—"An English gentleman on Christmas morning had all his tenants and neighbours enter by daybreak. The strong beer was broached, and the black-jacks went plentifully round with toast, sugar, nutmeg, and good Cheshire cheese. The hackin—i.e., the great sausage, must be boiled by daybreak, or else two young men must take the cook by the arms and run her round the market-place till she is ashamed of her laziness."

Although many of the old customs and superstitious practices have fallen into disuse, some are kept up in different parts of the country with more or less vigour. Thus, in Devonshire, the old yule-log takes the form of the ashen-faggot, and is burned with much ceremony. It is made of ash timber, and a numerous company are generally invited to see it blaze. In Cornwall it is called "the mock." In many places great importance is attached to the circumstance as to whether a light or a dark haired person is the first to enter a house on Christmas morning—light-haired persons being said to bring with them ill-luck. A Herefordshire piece of folk-lore says that it is highly unfortunate for new shoes of tanned leather to be admitted into the house during Christmas week. At Alnwick, in Northumberland, it is still customary to give sweetmeats to children at Christmastide, called "Yule-babies;" and in Yorkshire a kind of pastry locally known as "Pepper Cake" is made, a piece of which is given to every visitor. In some counties the mummers still make their appearance, exhibiting the old dance of St. George and the Dragon. A popular custom has been associated for very many years with the parish of Cumnor, in Berkshire. On Christmas Day, at the conclusion of the evening service, the parishioners who are liable to pay tithes repair to the vicarage, and are hospitably regaled with bread, cheese, and ale. This is claimed as a right by the parishioners, the Vicar being expected to provide four bushels of malt brewed into ale, two bushels of wheat made into bread, and half a hundredweight of cheese. Whatever remains is distributed among the poor. Among some of the customs that are no longer kept up may be mentioned the cheese, which was made by the Yorkshire farmer specially for this season, and was cut with much ceremony. Formerly the lessee of the tithes of Homchurch, Essex, had to provide a boar's head, which, after being decorated with bay-leaves, was wrestled for in a field adjoining the church. In Gloucestershire it was the custom to present the Sovereign with a lamprey pie, a practice which is said to have originated as early as the time of Henry I., of lamprey-loving celebrity.

At St. Cuthbert's Church, Acworth, in Yorkshire, a sheaf of corn was at one time suspended on Christmas Eve outside the porch for the benefit of the birds. At Dewsbury one of the church bells was tolled on Christmas Eve, as at a funeral, and went by the name of the "Devil's Knell," the moral being, we are told, that "the Devil died when Christ was born." In the neighbourhood of the New Forest it was the practice for farmers to wassail their orchards on Christmas Eve—a custom which has not yet become quite obsolete—repeating the following lines:—

Apples and pears, with right good corn,
Come in plenty to every one;
Eat and drink good cake and hot ale;
Give earth to drink, and she'll not fail.

In some parts of Norfolk libations of spiced ale used to be sprinkled, too, on orchards and meadows. In the Isle of Man, every family that could afford it had a brewing called "Christmas Drink" at this season. One brewing-kettle generally served a whole neighbourhood, which, says Train, in his "History of the Isle of Man," gave rise to the monk's proverb, "To go about like a brewing-pan."

In Wales, Christmas is observed with much enthusiasm, being marked by many a curious superstition and quaint custom. Carols are sung, and the waits are popular. On Christmas Eve the colliers carry about a board stuck over with lighted candles, or wheel a handbarrow containing a bed of clay in which the candles are placed. This is called "the Star," sometimes the "Star of Bethlehem."

The Scotch reserve their merrymakings until the last day

of the year, which is known as Hogmanay. Special importance, however, is attributed to the person who is the first to open the door on "Yule Day," as he is expected to prosper more than the other members of the household, because, to use the vulgar phrase, "he lets in Yule."

KEEPING HIMSELF WARM.

The village fiddler, on his way to some Christmas merry-making party at a neighbouring farm-house, perhaps finds himself half an hour too early, and does not think fit to enter before the appointed time for the social dance. But having no desire to "cool his heels," as the saying is, by standing still in the snow, he seems to have halted in his path across the field near that hospitable dwelling; and, feeling some doubt of his perfect recollection of one or two lively tunes he will be asked to play, "Keeps himself warm" by cutting a few capers to accompany the melodious rehearsal of these upon his instrument of spirit-stirring music. It cannot be supposed that the fiddler would so disport himself in the open air, even for a few minutes, on a winter's night, if the party he is about to join were not the second or third which he has attended in the course of that long evening; the fact is, that he has already eaten a more than ample dinner, and has already drunk as much strong ale, with a glass of toddy following, as he will be competent to carry with discretion. What is to become of him three hours later, when he should leave the warm house of Farmer Endfield, and return to his own cottage home, we will not here consider; but he is merry and free enough at this moment, and as for Topsy, his favourite pug-dog, which has been trained to dance to the sound of her master's violin, this little creature may help to take care of him in the state of slumbrous imbecility that he may then have reached. The cows and oxen of the field, not being affected by the strains of his fiddle as some beasts of olden time were by those of Orpheus' lute, appear rather alarmed and scandalised by the intrusion of such an entertainment into their peaceful pasture.

FINE ARTS.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

The principal feature in the present winter exhibition in Pall-mall East is a loan collection of the works of the late George Dodgson, disposed on screens and in the society's "Drawing-room." A precedent is thus established which, on the death of any leading member, may be followed with advantage—equally as regards the prestige of the society and the pleasure and profit of the public. To the younger frequenters of this gallery this assemblage of noble works will be a revelation that could hardly be expected from the artist's latest drawings. The over-sensitive tremulousness, amounting almost to weakness, of some of the latter is seen in the loan works to have been a method consciously adopted in the first instance for the sake of its admirable suggestiveness and its sympathetic expressiveness, for the earliest drawings are remarkable for precision as well as decision and *verve*. Of the last, the very earliest, perhaps, and the most surprising, is also the largest of the series—a view of "St. Paul's from Blackfriars Bridge," lent by the Corporation of Liverpool—one of the finest London views ever painted, though, judging by the very early form of the omnibuses on the bridge and other details, it must have been executed many, many years ago. There are a few London scenes besides this, but of course the bulk of the collection deals with the subjects with which the artist's reputation was so long connected—with the scours and becks of Yorkshire and his beloved Whitby, with Haddon Hall and terrace, sometimes veiled in moonlight mystery; and with Knole and its clumps of beeches and oaks, through the multitudinous leaves of which the twinkling sunlight falls in showers of gold along the sward, where often gay groups of figures, graceful as those of Watteau, hold their fête champêtre in happy and gallant but innocent idleness. Nor are there wanting the rich fruits of occasional trips to Wales and Scotland, and once as far as Milan Cathedral. We greatly regret that our space will not permit us to do justice to one of our few poetical painters—to his fine sense of beauty, to his rare gift as a colourist, to the charm of his execution in his best time.

The general exhibition does not fall short of its usual high level, and is of especial interest on account of the advance made by several of the newer members. To give precedence among these to Princess Louise really requires no concession of extraneous sentiment; for two large portrait-heads of Colonel F. de Winton and Sir John McNiel, V.C., may well bear comparison with anything in the gallery as regards close observation of character and the perfect sincerity of the searching and competent execution. H. W. Marshall in a number of studies, made mostly in and about Newcastle-on-Tyne, but more particularly in "Lye Harbour" (294)—with a deliciously pearly sky—evinces a combination of artistic susceptibility to fresh impression, and of careful conscientiousness in realisation that is of great promise. Norman Taylor's "Gleaners" (220) has a singularly sweet sunny tone; very tender and delicate also is C. Rigby's "Salmon Weir" (305). Similar praise is due to W. M. Hale's contributions, but they are too evidently imitative of Alfred Hunt—who, by-the-way, is an absentee. E. F. Brewtnall has, in illustration of a fairy tale (124), a very graceful figure of a princess, in her stately, romantic palace grounds. W. Duncan appears to advantage as a colourist, see "The Novel" (69); and E. Buckman makes progress in the same direction. Tom Lloyd and E. A. Waterlow maintain their ground as frank and effective painters of landscape with figures, and the former has a touch of poetic sentiment in "A Pastoral" (91). Still more robust, and broader in their grasp of effect, are the "Studies from Nature," by R. Thorne Waite. Walter Field is likewise firmer and more decisive than usual in "Henley Church and Bridge" (40). The power displayed in T. J. Watson's "In a Wood" (217) is undeniable, but this power is obtained by a too free use of heavy browns—to the detriment of the aerial perspective. R. Barnes, as a rather too strenuously realistic painter of incidents of child-life, and F. S. Shields, as a rather weakly conventional decorative designer, also put in appearance. J. Parker is a follower of Frederick Walker, but this must not render us insensible to the nice feeling manifested in his "Little Idle One" (104) and in "La Cour Lavoussaye, St. Malo" (322). A certain indeterminateness of handling in the drawings of A. Goodwin might seem to be derived from the manner of Mr. Dodgson, but this is not out of place in the twilight view of "Tavistock" (56). H. Wallis has two pleasant little *genre* subjects which tell their story well—"The Marriage Settlement" (381) and "Reading a Manuscript" (404). With mention of Mrs. Angell's flower pieces, the vigorous painting of which requires no commendation; H. Moore's landscapes, which are even more acceptable than his marines, F. Powell's exquisite little loch scene "Beaume" (316), Otto Weber's well modelled "English Cart Horses" (42), female figures elegant in contour, but rather flat in effect, by E. K. Johnson; O. W. Brierly's large and effective drawing from the Venice lagoon, with brazozzi caught in a squall, and shortening their gaily-painted sails; and characteristic examples of Basil J. Bradley, J. D. Watson, and A. Hopkins—we may pass to the

works of some of the older or equally esteemed members, whose merits are better known.

Sir John Gilbert, the veteran President, is represented at his best, we think, in "The Battle of the Standard" (182), a "finished study" for the large drawing exhibited in the spring, and which, as not unfrequently happens, seems preferable even to the finished picture. Mr. Marks, continuing to work the vein of humour in which he has discovered analogues of the human biped in the feathered tribes, has in "The Two Dromios" (35) a couple of penguins, the one turning towards the other, as though remarking, in the words of the "Comedy of Errors"—"methinks you are my glass, and not my brother." The perfect identity of their black and white garb might further suggest two gentlemen in evening dress. Mrs. Allingham is even more delightful than usual in a number of tiny drawings of children and young girls with landscape accompaniments, all elaborated with the exquisite sense of beauty in everyday life, and the consummate delicacy of touch of Frederick Walker. It would be invidious to select any for special mention: all deserve closest scrutiny. Carl Haag sends a large head of a Sheikh (349), a howling Dervish (402), and a "Petrovich of Montenegro" (121), each in his best manner. Small drawings by G. Frupp on the screens are inimitably beautiful; and E. Duncan evokes renewed admiration with novel subjects and effects and the unfailing simplicity that comes only with mature mastery, witness Nos. 142 and 151. We must be content to commend to the visitor Mr. Dobson's "Silvia" (95), a female head in profile, lifesize; the contributions of S. Read—the principal one being a fine drawing of Burgos Cathedral, and several views on the precipitous West Coast of Scotland; and those, mostly small, of Birket Foster, F. Taylor, E. A. Goodall, A. D. Frupp, A. Glennie, G. H. Andrews, Brittan Willis, S. P. Jackson, C. Davidson, Collingwood Smith, P. J. Naftel, and T. Danby.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

The inevitable comparison between the successive exhibitions of the elder and younger water-colour societies is fairly well sustained on this occasion by the latter, if we exclude from the former (as in fairness we must of course do), the loan collection of works by George Dodgson. The competition would be still more close were it not that several members of the institute who are distinguished chiefly as oil-painters contribute but sparingly, or not at all.

A new member has been lately elected—Mr. Lionel P. Smyth—and will doubtless prove a creditable acquisition. The refined artistic feeling in colour and execution which we have observed in this artist's recent oil-pictures is equally apparent in his water-colours, though the contributions with which he makes his début are but studies for oil-paintings that have been exhibited at the Royal Academy or Suffolk-street. One, called "Kindred Spirits" (29), shows a little girl resting in a garden-swing, while kittens play about the tree at her side. Another is a scene in a ship's cabin at night, with the master and mate consulting a chart by the light of the lamp suspended overhead. It is blowing very hard, as we see by the inclination of the timbers, and the propping up of the kettle on the stove with a poker, to prevent the hot water pouring over into the lee scuppers. The marked accession of power in the drawings of the President, Mr. Louis Haghe, would seem, happily, to prove the artist's complete recovery from his recent severe illness. Worthy of his best time are two interiors, with appropriate figures, from the Ducal Palace, Venice—the "Hall of the Bussola" (238) and the "Ante-room of the Sala del Consiglio" (65)—not "Councilio," as in the catalogue. Two or three younger architectural painters are also coming to the front. Mr. Fulleylove, hitherto known only (though favourably) by bits of Hampton Court or old English homesteads, sends promising studies from Siena (an unmodernised town, too much neglected by our artists), Assisi, and elsewhere in Italy. Mr. Wyld, whose reputation is higher in Paris (where he has long resided) than here, has several meritorious town views, particularly "The Old Slave Market, Algiers" (12). L. J. Wood, too, has made an advance; and among many pleasing examples of the late J. H. D'Egville, there is one, especially so, of "Venice" (181).

But most of the chief attractions of this exhibition are furnished by the many members who, more or less frequently, supply illustrations of scene and story to pictorial newspapers and periodicals. One of the foremost of these, Mr. Herkomer, is, however, only represented in the small black-and-white room by two not very felicitous efforts—"Grace before Meat," a scene in a Bavarian cottage, and a couple of lovers plighting "Love and Faith." J. Tenniel, again, is only exemplified in this room; his three contributions are, however, among his most capital designs for *Punch*. The charcoal sketches of "Newhaven Fishwives," by T. Walter Wilson are, we think, more successful in their way than his drawing in colours, "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (99), a scene in a Dutch cottage, with an old fellow on all fours, carrying two children on his back in mimic assault towards the baby, whose little hands are held up squared for defence by the old mother or grandmother: the painting is powerful, but the expressions are rather exaggerated. Two other artists, G. Clausen and Hugh Carter, derive both subjects and style from Holland. The first has learnt from the Dutch school the secret of the great artistic value of just tonal relations; and if he continues to advance as he has already progressed, "*il ira loin*." "Waiting for the Ferry" (71) finely illustrates the art-quality to which we allude; nothing in the room is so telling: a Dutch girl is waiting with her huge brass milk vessels by the side of a canal in the deepening twilight, while other figures of harvesters collecting on the crest of the opposite dyke-bank are relieved darkly against the still glowing sky.

"The Old Coaching Days" (78), by A. C. Gow, representing a couple of highwaymen making off from the coach they have robbed in the middle distance, beside which a lady is holding a restorative cordial to the lips of a fainting gentleman in a red coat, realises the rather threadbare incident with spirit and vraisemblance, and is a thoroughly conscientious and competent piece of work, finished, perhaps, only too highly and equally, seeing that it thereby acquires a little of what artists call "tightness." A somewhat analogous uniformity of execution may be felt in C. Green's otherwise excellent and humorous figure (58) of an old gentleman looking indignant at being interrupted in the perusal of a book which he holds in his hand, keeping the "place" with his finger. Two single-figure female studies, entitled "Autumn" (64) and "Winter" (276), by J. D. Linton, present, as usual, admirable facial characterisation and imitation of textures, with soberly rich colouring; but also, as usual, the artist sees shadow only as blackness, and the cumbrous costumes convey the impression of being painted from the lay figure. R. Beavis's very primitive "Sand Cart" of the "Pyrenées Orientales" (82), with its yoke of oxen, evinces a hand at once free and firm, together with assured command of the resources for picturesque effect. Less agreeable, because painted in body-colour on (probably) tinted paper, is "Greeting in the Desert" (262) by the same.

Our restricted space this week compels us to confine ourselves to simple mention of other noteworthy figure-subjects; to wit, E. Bale's pretty Italian children, one (204) with a *fiatone* of wine, the other (260) with a large brass water-pitcher; Guido R. Bach's large Roman Scene (222); C. J. Staniland's monk trudging through the snow, heavily laden with Christmas provisions, and consoling himself with the reflection that "Labour shall have its Reward" (252); Mary L. Gow's simple and sweet group of two girls playing at "Beggar my Neighbour" (8); H. J. Stock's sentimental or allegorical compositions, better in execution than conception; W. L. Thomas's pleasant Swiss subjects; and contributions by Seymour Lucas, F. W. W. Topham, G. G. Kilburne, J. Absolon, J. H. Mole, and Lady Lindsay.

Among several marine pieces by E. Hayes there is a large one of conspicuous merit, "Falmouth Harbour" (208) full of life and movement of wind and wave, and of knowledge in the craft. W. W. May likewise displays unwonted animation and strength of effect in a view of "The Thames at Greenwich" (72); while in "Fishing-Boats Leaving Trouville" (86) at evening for the night's take, and "Repairing the Schuyt" (94), we have the customary quiet sentiment and pleasant grey harmonies. The group of artists here who follow David Cox more or less closely still keep to the beaten track. J. Collier is rather disappointing in his sketch of "A Snowstorm over Carnedd David" (75). So, too, is J. Orrock, perhaps, in the rather tame "Summer Day on the Yorkshire Moors" (56); but his "Bolton Castle, Yorkshire" (230), if a little mannered in the foreground, has an admirable distance: the receding passages, plane on plane, are differentiated with great nicety. The vigorous drawing, "Carting Rushes" (206), by E. M. Wimperis, and J. W. Wymper's "Bolton Castle" (237) belong to the same category. J. Mogford seems likewise to have been looking to "Old Davy," and that with advantage, in his "Valley of the Tavy" (39). There is breadth, also, in J. Syer's "View at Wells, Somersetshire" (117), but the picturesque treatment is somewhat conventional. The invaluable quality of "breadth" is obtained by quite other means—not by rightforth handling, left as the pencil followed the mind of the artist, but by much general washing—in small but even more than ordinarily elaborate drawings by H. G. Hine; exquisitely reposeful and tender as these are, however, we confess we prefer execution more frank, expressive, and autographic, so to speak. J. Aumonier sends a large and effective study of rich, sloping herbage, with a flight of seagulls, called "A Bit of the Yorkshire Coast." W. Simpson has a highly interesting and vividly painted view of the Piræus (164), taken from the height where Xerxes is said to have watched the Battle of Salamis. Exigencies of space again limit us to simple recommendation to the visitor's notice of W. L. Leitch's charming small views from Southern Italy—always rendered with a fine sense of composition—Harry Johnson's "Tintern" (205), J. A. Houston's "Stonehenge" (32), E. Hargitt's "Loch Ling" (55), Harry Hine's "Durham Cathedral" (194), Sir Coutts Lindsay's "Elie Harbour" (24), and the still-life of J. Hardy, J. Sherrin, and Mrs. Duffield.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Cornhill* has a new serial tale, "Fina's Aunt," in a style familiar to the readers of this periodical, and another, "Mrs. Van Steen," complete in this number. The latter is really a fine piece of comedy, not on account of the story, which is sufficiently hackneyed, but from the truth and delicacy of the portraits of the honourable and affectionate old Colonel and the little American woman, bright but a trifle hard, whom he mistakes for a widow. There is real art in the skill with which Mrs. Van Steen is kept from being disagreeable, or the Colonel ridiculous. The first instalment of "Rambles Among Books" treats of English authors especially associated with the country. It is difficult to say anything new about Izaak Walton or Gilbert White, but we are much gratified to meet with a frank recognition of the merits of Mr. Borrow, whose pictures of English country life unite realism with imagination to a degree not often found. "Lyne Regis" is a pleasant paper, but those acquainted with that delightful district would have liked a somewhat fuller description of its natural features. "Buddhists in Burma" is principally a sketch of the Burmese monastic system, of the ceremonies observed at the initiation of new members, and of the hold which the monks' efficiency as educators gives them upon the people.

By much the most remarkable paper in *Macmillan* is Mr. Bence Jones's inquiry, "What can be done for Ireland?" Mr. Bence Jones has spent forty years in raising the people on his property from a state of barbarism to one of comfort, and he is not minded that his work should be undone to please irresponsible agitators. The only requisites, according to him, are full protection for the rights of property and judicious assistance to emigration where the country is over-peopled. His reasoning has more good sense than nine tenths of what has been written on the Irish question, and would be impregnable if all landlords were judicious and resident like himself. Professor Jack describes the organisation and the mission of the new Victoria University in the North of England; Miss Betham-Edwards writes a lively account of the prolific and vivacious Andalusian novelist, Fernan Caballero; and Mr. George Meredith contributes one of his quaint and intricate poems, "Phœbus with Admetus." Mr. Grant Allen thinks that literary copyright should be perpetual; a view which, curiously enough, we observe to be especially popular with the authors whose works are neither intended nor adapted for posterity.

Fraser opens with a just and consequently appreciative review of "Endymion." Lord Northbrook's discourse on "The Natives of India" is, of course, interesting, as coming from one who has filled Lord Northbrook's position towards them, but it contains little of novelty. The other contributions are heavy and dry, with two remarkable exceptions. Mrs. Macdonald's "Penitence of Rajah Yayati" treats one of the most pathetic, and at the same time most characteristically Indian, episodes of Indian poetry, in an essay distinguished by lofty eloquence and deep feeling. "The Affair Simpson" is a very lively and amusing trifle, illustrating the comedy and romance of the noble game of golf.

There is rich comedy in *Blackwood's* new story, "The Private Secretary," alike of the refined and the humorous order. The leading situation is most dramatic, and the under-plot almost equally effective. "Dr. Wortle's School" reaches a satisfactory conclusion. Kinglake's new volume is reviewed in a spirit of fairness to all parties. The article on the Indian Famine Commission derives weight from embodying the views of a retired Bombay civilian of long standing. A clever paper on the Ministerial policy in the East fastens upon it the nickname of the "Paulo post futurum" policy.

The Irish question is discussed from several points of view in the *Nineteenth Century*. Mr. Justin McCarthy is sufficiently sanguine to believe that the concession of the Land League's demands would stop agitation for ever. Lord Lifford is, on the other hand, so desponding as to consider that, let legislation do

what it may, the innate faults of the Irish character will always keep the people poor and miserable. Miss O'Brien thinks that the happiest results might ensue upon the Government's letting out land in small patches to labourers. Mr. Plimssoll's essay on explosions in collieries is the exposition of a principle by the application of which he thinks they might be effectually prevented. "Music and the People," by Mrs. Marshall, is a very interesting account of the efforts that have been made to bring the music that exalts and refines within the reach of the poorest. Mr. A. S. Murray condenses the results of the highest criticism on the Olympian sculptures into a delightful paper. Mr. Hallan Tennyson, partly from private documents, attempts the vindication of Lord Russell's conduct during the Crimean War, usually considered as deficient in resolution as respected his adversaries, and in loyalty towards his own colleagues. Earl Grey denounces the present neutral attitude of the Colonial Office in South African affairs. Circumstances impart a melancholy interest to the late Sir A. Cockburn's paper on the chase, which would otherwise have been only remarkable as an example of the versatility of his powers.

The *Contemporary Review* is lighter and more varied than usual. The Duke of Argyll's essay in continuation of his treatise on the limits of human knowledge is, indeed, rather stiff reading, although the exertion is well repaid; and Mr. Hodgson's criticism of Professor Green's strictures on Herbert Spencer can interest only a select circle. But "Young Bengal at Home," by Mr. Knighton, the "Non-Resident American's" sketch of a New England village, and Lady Verney's pleasant autumn tour, will please those who read for amusement as well as for instruction, and Sir Rutherford Alcock's forecast of the possible results of the introduction of China to the family of civilised nations derives weight from the writer's former diplomatic position in the country. Mr. Alfred Austin's meditation in Poet's Corner, with reference to the exclusion of Byron, is rather rhetoric than poetry, but is nevertheless manly, dignified, and sonorous.

The *Fortnightly Review* has one article of considerable profundity—that by Mr. Herbert Spencer on the comprehensive subject of "Political Organisation in General," and several others of fairly average though not absorbing interest. Mr. Smyth's reminiscences of the "Young Ireland" party will command the respectful attention due to his eloquence and earnestness; but by much the most important part is the brief passage in which he avows his preference for fixity of tenure to "expropriation." This is the point on which the *ci-devant* Home Rule party will probably split. Mr. Leslie Stephen's notice of Pollock's Spinoza, and Mr. Grant Allen's review of Wallace's "Island Life" are examples of sound and careful exposition. Mr. Brodrick's paper on the relations of the Houses of Parliament is very conciliatory, and contains the sensible suggestion that more bills should be introduced into the House of Lords. The principal point in Mr. Pattison's address on "Industrial Shortcomings" is the superior inventiveness of the American manufacturer and artisan. Mr. Swinburne's "Short Criticisms on English Poets" is in the main a review of the criticism of Mr. Rossetti.

Harper's Monthly Magazine in its new form is even more captivating than ever, and in the quantity of its contents and the quality of its illustrations far surpasses all our English shilling magazines. Our publishers had better look to it. Our English illustrated monthlies, with few exceptions, have long been a disgrace to English art; and where the public find they can get, as in *Harper*, 160 pages of letterpress and fifty-four excellent engravings for a shilling, they are pretty sure to invest in the American article rather than in the British. The most attractive article in the present number of *Harper*—at least, to the English reader—will be "The English Lakes and their Genii," which is brightly and pleasantly written and well illustrated.

Scribner is as usual strong in illustrations, especially in the papers on the French painter Millet, and on Parisian art in general. The woodcuts to the article on "Hunting the Honey Bee" and those by Mr. R. C. Woodville, illustrating "Montenegro as we saw it," are also most excellent. Mr. Schuyler's history of Peter the Great is continued, and there is a paper of very serious interest on the extortions of the American railway companies, which would be endured nowhere in the Old World. The *Australian* has several papers of local interest, and wisely avoids the discussion of subjects of which its English readers have already had enough.

"Queen Cophetua" is included in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, which, with other entertaining matter, has, besides, a lively review of the department of individual Ministers since their assumption of office, and an estimate of the ground which they have respectively gained or lost. Lord Hartington, Sir C. Dilke, and Mr. Chamberlain come out of the ordeal well, Mr. Forster very badly. Mr. Dutton Cook contributes an excellent paper on Charles Kean, and Mr. J. C. Collins draws attention to the much neglected subject of Shakespeare's prose style. As Mr. Collins justly remarks, this style was almost wholly the creation of Shakespeare himself. Mr. Payn's "Confidential Agent" ceases this month to amuse and perplex the readers of *Belgravia*. Miss Hardy's "In China Town" is a capital descriptive paper. *Temple Bar and Time* are very readable, but without any special features. *London Society* has two excellent short stories, "My Forgery" and "A Very Queer Inn." The *Antiquary* is replete with interesting papers in its own special line; and the *Theatre*, among other good matter, has excellent contributions on Scribner, Mr. Booth's Hamlet, and "Eighteenth Century Burlesque."

The December number of the *Magazine of Art* is bright and sparkling from the diversity and excellence of its illustrations. Among the literary contents is a just and pleasant sketch of the late Mr. Tom Taylor. The "Art Notes," if well sustained, will be a very interesting feature. Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin also issue an Illustrated History of the United States of America, and the Child's Life of Christ; and they continue to publish their excellent Family Magazine (the number for this month, a capital one, beginning a new volume), Old and New London, Technical Educator, Longfellow's Poetical Works, Illustrated; Science for All, Illustrated; Familiar Wild Flowers, with Coloured Plates; and an Illustrated Book of the Dog. This enterprising firm publish this month the first part of an entirely new work, entitled Old and New Edinburgh, with illustrations executed expressly for it; Part I. of Cassell's Cookery, with numerous illustrations, which is to be completed in thirteen parts; and the first part of a new and revised edition of Cassell's Popular Educator, with a large presentation plate, William Caxton showing specimens of his printing to King Edward IV. and his Queen.

The following is a list of the successful candidates for naval cadetships, arranged in order of merit:—S. R. Fremantle, M. C. Seymour, A. C. Leveson, C. H. F. Bartelot, C. P. Buckle, A. H. Walsh, P. H. Colomb, C. J. Fienes, S. S. Douglas, W. H. D'Oyley, G. E. S. Petch, T. H. Forster, D. E. R. Brownrigg, H. P. Pelly, E. V. Underhill, H. Christain, W. B. Cooper-Coles, H. Blackett, G. E. Cave, Judge d'Arcy, G. C. H. Wintle, C. F. Corbett, and F. O. C. O'borne.

THE MONTHS: DECEMBER.

The blustering storms of wind, rain, and sleet, with which bluff old Winter commences his surly reign, are not calculated to impress us favourably with the altered poise of the year. Later on, however, when he casts his snows around us and binds land and water in chains of ice and frost, his rule, if not dear to us, is at least respected. In fact, directly he becomes the despot we bend submissively to his sway. We cannot but deplore the lot of the poor and destitute ones who, when the frost steals in through their crazy doors and windows, find the struggle for existence wellnigh too hard to bear; yet, in our hearts, we hail the grim tyrant complacently enough—for the frosty air is exhilarating and seasonable, and ice and snow infinitely more pleasant, from an æsthetic point of view, than the gloomy haze which often is the only alternative of frost.

After the boisterous weather of the earlier part of the month, there is an indescribable charm in the first heavy fall of snow, especially when it comes in the dead of night. The lifeless landscape which yesterday lay spread before us in deepest gloom and desolation, is lifeless still; yet how lovely is the metamorphosis that has been effected in the silent night! Fields, lanes, hedges, trees, are so spotlessly white and pure, we could almost fancy that the angels of God, in pity for Earth's nakedness, have sped them earthwards to hide her shame. Even the habitations of man look comely now. Highly picturesque are all the little hamlets and villages of hill and dale, now that the soft, white snow has settled in brooding silence upon the low-thatched roofs, beneath which, from homely hearths, comes out a warm red glow that makes the snow upon paling, road, and hedge sparkle in ten thousand crystals. And the great city itself, with all its burden of guilt and sin, wakes up for once in unsullied purity.

But perhaps it is in the woods, and wherever there are trees, that the snow seems most meet; so soft and warm does it lie upon the leafless twigs and boughs, and so snugly nestles in the nooks and hollows where branches leave the parent stem. And just as prettily as upon the deciduous trees, rest the white feathery flakes upon the evergreens, especially those of the coniferous order. The cedar, while losing nothing of his stateliness, is absolutely beautiful when his great spreading branches are fringed with snow. The spruce-fir, too, with its feathery strata of foliage, rising tier above tier, its lower boughs sweeping the ground, and the light and graceful larch, are charmingly pretty. The lordly oak, though last of the trees to shed his leaves, had his pride and glory brought cruelly low by December's opening blasts; but, now that the snow-flakes have floated softly down amongst his straggling branches, he looks more than half consoled. And in what grand relief, against the white world around him, stands out his massy trunk, so picturesque in its varied tints and gnarled protuberances! The patches of olive-green, dusky brown, and yellow, and the clinging mosses, especially those green velvet tufts near his root, give to his furrowed stem a beauty more appreciated now than in the verdant summer time. And there are other trees, the picturesqueness of whose trunks is more noticeable in winter than when all was bright and green—such, for instance, as the plane-trees, whose scaly stems offer to the pencil the touches so effective in painting; the birch, with its markings of brown, yellow, and silver; and the beech, whose smooth rind is overspread with a variety of mosses and lichens.

Far less common than the mosses and lichens which adorn most of our trees is a parasite that grows, here and there, on the poplar, lime, maple, hazel, oak, and, in greatest abundance, wherever there is a goodly show of apple-trees. This plant, which has ever been famous for mystic rites and ceremonies, and which will soon be in urgent request wherever there are pretty lips and hearts that love, is now growing in great bunches throughout all the apple orchards of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. But, in the meantime, before the mistle-toe is cut down for the London and other markets, the thrushes and fieldfares are helping themselves to the choicest of its viscid berries. Let not those, however, who are dreaming of certain eyes which speak and lips that tempt, be angry with the birds; for, were it not for the birds' depredations on the mistletoe, the plant would soon die a natural death. We all know that the missel-thrush derives its name from being considered the chief instrument in the propagation of this famous parasite. It missels (soils) its toes with the slime of the berry, and, alighting on a fresh tree, carries with it the germ of a future plant. But, besides his associations with the parasite in question, the missel-thrush has other claims upon our attention in this wintry month. He is one of the very few songsters of December, choosing the wildest weather for warbling his loud, rich, ringing lay. Shrieking winds and driving snowstorms do not daunt him, but, on the contrary, stimulate him to his highest pitch of enthusiasm. Hence his popular name of "stormcock." His yellow breast, thickly studded with jet-black spots, his large size, his constant residence amongst us, and, above all, his rich voice at the most inclement of the seasons, make the missel-thrush one of the most prominent birds of December. With him, as songsters of the month, we must, of course, include the robin and the tiny wren; but these sweet singers are silent during those rough bursts of wintry weather, when the stormcock chants his loudest carols.

Beyond the three songsters just named and the finches and sparrows that congregate in the neighbourhood of every farmyard, there are as scanty signs of life in the animal as in the vegetable kingdom. In field and lane, in woodland and river vale, the stagnation and death of nature is all but complete. True, there are still some wild quadrupeds about, but they manage to keep well out of sight, unless cheived from their covers by sportsmen, should the weather permit. Even the "uncanny" creatures that were lately crawling by the lane-sides have succumbed to the cold, and, abashed no doubt by the glittering purity of the snow, have slunk away into holes and crevices of the earth, there to undergo the wonderful process of hibernation. The snake has coiled himself up for his winter sleep, and the frog has retired into the mud at the bottom of ponds and ditches; the lizard, badger, and hedgehog, have rolled themselves up until the balmy breath of violets and primroses shall break their soporific spell; and the bats no longer fill the air with their tiny shrieks, but are hanging, suspended by the claws of their hind feet, in caverns, barns, and mouldering ruins. The herds, too, and the flocks that not long since enlivened all the country side, have disappeared from the hill-slopes to the precincts of the farmyard.

Indeed, so far as the rural aspect of the month is concerned, it is only in the immediate vicinity of farmyards that we find any signs of life. The assembly of birds driven thither by the cold, the cattle knee-deep in straw, the stacks daily being cut into for bedding, and the busy hum of the thrashing-machine, give to such localities an air of considerable animation and bustle. Around the homesteads, too, there is even an air of warmth, in the nestling evergreens, in the holly especially, whose clustering bunches of bright red berries cheer our hearts with thoughts of Christmas. And, after all, the knowledge that the great Christian anniversary is close at hand is the one bright star which makes this torpid month beloved, no matter how hard the frost or how deep the snow.





POST HASTE.
DRAWN BY F. C. COTMAN.

POST HASTE!

The rural postman, or letter-carrier, being an elderly man not quite so alert and vigorous as in his younger days, now finds the walking round of twenty miles over heavy roads, in summer or winter, and in wet or dry weather, somewhat more fatiguing than it used to be. We must not judge him too harshly, as the spirit is doubtless willing though the flesh is weak, if, having turned at the Red Lion, only for a half pint of ale and a pipe of tobacco, in the afternoon part of his daily service, he has fallen into a brief slumber on the tap-room bench. Here, as we see, the artist, Mr. F. G. Cotman, has chanced to find him, and, instead of waking him immediately, and starting him afresh in the path of duty, has thought it worth while to draw his picture. And a very good picture he makes, in that comfortable attitude of settled occasional repose, with folded arms, nodding head, every muscle of the careworn and weather-beaten old face now suffused with a peaceful calm; to him, no doubt, as good as being in church on Sunday, and not hearing the sermon! Post Haste, as a general maxim or precept, is commendable enough; but first let Nature take her tribute; after that, for the delivery of the mails. It is, however, by no means certain that this good old public servant's bag—or he may be the private messenger from the squire's great house to the nearest post-office—does not contain letters or papers intended for the evening's dispatch on their way to other places. If that be the case, he is more likely to be severely called to account for the possible ill consequences of losing a mail.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

A superb large quarto volume, published by Messrs. Blackie and Son, is entitled *Switzerland: its Scenery and People*, containing a great collection of fine engravings, drawn by many eminent Swiss and German artists. The text, an historical and descriptive account of that romantic country, is mainly translated from the German of Dr. Gsell-Fels, but adapted to the taste of English readers by Mr. G. G. Chisholm, who has made it a very interesting book. It treats of the Lake of Geneva, the Rhone valley, the Upper Reuss valley, the Lake of Lucerne, and Forest Cantons, the Bernese Oberland, the city of Berne, and the Lake of Thun; then of north-western Switzerland, Freiburg, Neuchâtel, Basle, and the Aargau; of the north-eastern region, Schaffhausen, Thurgau, Appenzell, St. Gall, and the Lake of Constance; of the south-eastern, the Grisons, the Engadine, and Ticino; and, lastly, of all that lies about the Lake of Zurich. Here is an ample field of topographical study, with abundance of national and social peculiarities, and of instructive topics concerning the local geology, botany, and natural history, which are discussed with considerable learning, but in a clear and pleasant style. The engravings, many of which are of full page size, are displayed to advantage by the finest paper and printing; and the volume is splendidly bound.

In the class of illustrated books of critical art-history, Mr. D. Bogue has produced a volume on *British Painters of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*. It will be very agreeable to those who have a truly English predilection for our native school of art, but it is far from including all the chief examples of that school. Those of whom it treats are J. W. M. Turner, Constable, Colcott, Wilkie, B. R. Haydon, Mulready, Etty, David Cox, Eastlake, David Roberts, and Stanfield, of the older series; then Frank Stone, Webster, Landseer, Taylor, Dyce, Cope, Creswick, Ansell, T. J. Barker, J. C. Horsley, Sir J. Gilbert, Dobson, Frith, Hook, E. Gill, and Pickersgill, of the second generation; and Faed, Madox Brown, Noel Paton, R. Beavis, H. S. Marks, Yeames, Alma Tadema, Boughton, P. R. Morris, Poynter, Briton Rivière, F. Walker, and Frank Holl, of those not yet past middle age. Two pictures by each artist have been engraved for this work.

Fantastic mythology, drawn from authentic legendary sources, may serve for literary instruction as well as for imaginative recreation. This will recommend, perhaps, not only to "boys and girls," but to their elders, a book of "tales and traditions of our northern ancestors," which Mr. W. S. W. Anson has edited, but which is adapted, by M. W. Macdowall, from the work of Dr. W. Wagner. It bears the name of *Asgaard and the Gods*; Asgaard being the Olympus, or home of the gods, in the Scandinavian and Teutonic systems of religious fable. The volume is published by Messrs. W. Swan Sonnenschein and Allen, Paternoster-square. The illustrative woodcuts have some merit as original designs.

A comical parody of the fashion of Norse and Germanic romances, but in the shape of a story which Mr. J. Moyr Smith calls "a Northern Oddity," supposed to be transcribed from a Runic manuscript he picked up in a dream at the Maes How in the Orkneys, is called *The Wooing of the Waterwitch* (Chatto and Windus). It relates the adventures of Vingolf, a son of the Vikings bold, with his friends Gringab and Suckard, who are very amusing fellows; also, of Prince Balderdaesh, and of several young ladies whom they met, either above-ground or under the water. The engravings are boldly and cleverly designed by Mr. Moyr Smith; and the drollery of some, and the beauty of others, including the decorative initial letters, and the ornamental head-pieces and tail-pieces, make this a very attractive Christmas book.

Messrs. F. Warne and Co. have brought out several books for the seasonable diversion of youth, which please us highly by the good taste, as well as the humour, fun, and liveliness of their contents and of the pictorial illustrations. *Merry Ballads of the Olden Time* should be reproduced over and over again, for each successive generation of children, and have never appeared to such great advantage as in this publication. These ancient favourites of the English people, "King John and the Abbot," "Whittington," "Tom Thumb," "Allan-a-Dale and Robin Hood," "The Blind Beggar of Bethnal-green," and others in this collection, must never be allowed to be forgotten. The illustrations, some coloured, some merely tinted brown, are executed in chromolithography by Messrs. Emrik and Bingen. We likewise admire the agreeable quaintness, combined with elegance, neatness, and finish, of *Afternoon Tea*, which consists of simple diverting rhymes for children, illustrated by Messrs. J. G. Sowerby and H. H. Emmerson. These artists might seem to have borrowed, perhaps unconsciously, something of the air and style of Miss Kate Greenaway's designs, but they show no slight degree of original power. The colouring is mostly of the pale and gently modulated tints which have lately come into vogue, and which are very preferable to the blazing fierceness of those commonly employed ten years ago. The same publishers have issued two nice half-crown books of words and music, *Songs for Our Little Friends* and *The Children's Hour*, each containing twenty-four or twenty-six pieces, the words by E. R. B. and Mrs. Curteis, the music by Madame Borroni. These will enable some little folk, who can sing if they will, to learn how they may contribute to the pleasure of their elders.

Among the pretty or fanciful and amusing books of Christmas entertainment, we observe the *Story of Prince Hildebrand and Princess Ida* (De la Rue and Co.). The author and amateur artist, Major T. S. Seccombe, tells this mock-romantic

tale in rhymed couplets of a long, ambling measure, which requires to be recited with skilful regard to rhythmic cadence, and we fear it may become fatiguing on the lips of an untrained reader. There is much humour and vigour in the illustrative woodcuts, numbering a hundred and ten, and the paper and printing are exquisitely fine. Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. publish *Northern Fairy Tales*, translated by Mr. H. L. Brakstad from the Norwegian and Danish, with thirty-six coloured page illustrations by R. T. Pritchett and Clifford Merton. The same publishers have brought out *Pretty Peggy, and other Ballads*, a book for young children, with Rosina Emmet's clever drawings, full of life and character, also printed in colours. From Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, in the same class of publications, we have the *Favourite Album of Fun and Fancy*, with a large amount of pleasant reading for boys and girls, and with abundance of small engravings. Also, by Miss O. L. Matéaux, a new tale of domestic and juvenile interest, *Tim Trumble's Little Mother*, which is very good for the reading of thoughtful girls, between nine and twelve years of age.

A suggestive novelty in the way of book-illustration, by Mr. G. L. Lillie, is called *Splashes of Ink* (G. Routledge and Sons). It is worth the notice of black-and-white artists, or amateurs of that kind of art, who will here see what telling graphic effects can be produced by apparently the simplest means; while the attempt to do likewise may furnish a great deal of amusement for an idle hour. There is a high degree of imaginative force in the hints conveyed by those rude patches and scrawls, easily translated into effective pictures.

A beautiful work, forming one small volume, published by Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, is *Familiar Garden Flowers*, the first series, uniform with "Familiar Wild Flowers." Mr. Shirley Hibberd, a highly competent author, supplies the botanical descriptions, while the illustrations are drawn by Mr. F. E. Hulme. Forty of these are full-page coloured plates, which are equally to be admired for their truth and for their beauty; each chapter is further ornamented with a head-piece and tail-piece woodcut of the appropriate floral subject. The volume has a neat pasteboard case for its safer preservation.

Illustrated editions of Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome* (Longmans) and of Washington Irving's *Little Britain, and Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Sampson Low), will make very acceptable gift-books to friends of good literary taste. The designs for Macaulay's heroic Lays are by Mr. J. R. Weguelin; those for Washington Irving's delightful tales and sketches are by Mr. C. O. Murray. Both artists have done very well.

Lord Brabourne, who as Mr. Knatchbull Hugessen displayed his knack of telling fairy-stories to divert young people, has not, since his elevation to the Peerage, lost or despised this agreeable and condescending talent. *The Mountain Sprite's Kingdom* (G. Routledge and Sons), followed by three other tales of Germanic and other romantic mediæval mystery, will find acceptance with his "River Legends" and "Uncle Joe's Stories." The illustrations, by Ernest Griset, more especially that of "Black Rolf and old Elfrida," in the frontispiece, are designed with much power of conception, and some of them are very well drawn. The same publishers, in Mrs. Frederick Locker's gentle and graceful little fable, *What the Blackbird Said*, with engravings which Mr. Randolph Caldecott has designed with much truth to nature, furnish milder entertainment for the fancy of tender-hearted children. *A Silver Key to a Golden Palace*, by Alton Leslie, relates the adventures of a little maid who got a ride in a chaise drawn by a Moa, and was carried into a Wonderland not unlike that of the celebrated Alice.

Two eminent Professors, under the publishing auspices of Messrs. Routledge, produce their budgets of marvellous knowledge to gratify the intellectual activity of youth. Professor Pepper, formerly of the Polytechnic Institution, in his *Boys' Playbook of Science*, the first edition of which appeared some time ago, gave directions and explanations concerning an instructive series of experimental exhibitions in the way of the physical, mechanical, chemical, electrical, magnetic, pneumatic, and optical sciences. In his absence at the antipodes, a new edition, with some enlargements, and with the addition of chapters on photography, the telephone and microphone, the phonograph, the heliograph, the electric light, and the spectroscope, has been prepared by Mr. T. C. Hepworth, his colleague at the Polytechnic Institution. The woodcuts, which number 453, are drawn by Mr. H. G. Hine, under the author's direction. The other volume, by "Professor Hoffmann," which is a *nom de plume* for the clever author of "Modern Magic," is a translation of Robert Houdin's posthumous work, a treatise on *The Secrets of Stage Conjuring*. This must not be confounded with that entitled "Robert Houdin's Secrets of Conjuring and Magic," an English version of which, by the same translator, has already appeared. Either or both may be safely recommended to persons who are ambitious, enterprising and adroit enough to attempt the task of gaining practical expertness in the harmless art of visual illusion, for the diversion of social and family parties at the coming festive season.

Another Christmas publication of the same firm, in Broadway, Ludgate-hill, called *Prince Darling's Story-Book*, consists of four tales now translated from the French, the merits of which may be certified by the names of their authors, E. Ourliac, Alexandre Dumas, Paul de Musset, and C. Nodier. They are the stories of "Prince Coqueluche," the "Honey-Stew of Countess Bertha," "Gaffer Wind and Dame Rain," and "The Woodcutter's Dog," with illustrations numbering above three hundred, but of small size.

SIR E. J. REED ON JAPAN.

Among the Illustrations of newly built ships of war, for the service of foreign Governments, which have appeared in this Journal, our readers may perhaps recollect that of the iron-clad frigate Foo-Seo, constructed at Millwall for his Imperial Majesty the Mikado of Japan. The designer of that vessel was Sir E. J. Reed, K.C.B., now M.P. for Cardiff, who was formerly Chief Constructor for our own Lords of the Admiralty, and who is also Vice-President of the Institution of Naval Architects. Mr. Reed, as he was then styled, had occasion to visit Japan, towards the beginning of last year, and passed three months in that interesting country of Far Eastern Asia. We are indebted to his personal observations there, and to his diligent researches into Japanese history and statistics, for one of the most instructive books of its class. Two volumes, which are very full of matter, rather closely printed, have just been published by Mr. Murray, entitled, "Japan: its History, Traditions, and Religions, with the Narrative of a Visit in 1879," by Sir E. J. Reed.

A particular interest in Japan may have been inspired in some minds by the numerous sketches which Mr. C. Wirgman, our clever correspondent at Yokohama, has contributed to the *Illustrated London News* during the past sixteen years, and by those of our Special Artist, Mr. W. Simpson, who went there in 1873. We have not failed to notice, however briefly, whatever fresh descriptions of Japanese scenery, popular life, manners, and institutions have occurred in recent books of travel, or in special studies of Japanese literature and art.

The striking effects, too, of the great social and political revolution that has taken place since 1868, when the rule of the Tycoon or Shogoon was broken, and that of the Emperor, styled the Mikado, was restored in full power, have often been remarked. One consequence of this change of government, involving as it did the destruction of the old feudal aristocracy, has been the speedy introduction of European fashions, and great progress in the industrial arts and sciences, chiefly under English instruction. Mr. Wirgman, whose talent as a comic and grotesque artist is widely known, has frequently amused us with laughable pictures of the queer looks of Japanese courtiers, and dandies affecting the novelties of the day, when they first put on the tight coats and trousers and boots of the Western nations. But it is now some time since we saw any drolleries of that kind. As the Japanese in general are well-made men, rather superior to most Europeans in bodily grace and activity, and with much tact and self-possession, it is likely that they have ceased to make such ridiculous figures.

Sir E. J. Reed's work presents to us, on the contrary, a large mass of substantial knowledge, very well digested and arranged, concerning the more serious affairs of Japanese society, its conditions and prospects. An outline of his treatment of this subject, which is on many accounts deserving of public attention, may be useful to direct the reader's mind in surveying what is here related.

The second volume alone contains the narrative of Sir E. J. Reed's visit to Japan, which extended from Jan. 10 to the end of March; a month being spent at Tokio, as the metropolis of the empire, formerly Yeddo or Jedo, is now called. He was received with great hospitality, and with official honours, by Admiral Kawamura, the Japanese Minister of Marine, and by the local magnates to whom he was recommended in other parts of the country. In his descriptions of the great towns, which have been abundantly described by preceding writers, as by Mr. Simpson in "Meeting the Sun," and by Mr. James Hingston, in "The Australian Abroad," there is little to dwell upon here. Osaka, the city of many canals and bridges, with its bustle of popular traffic; and Kioto, the western capital, with its temples and palaces; and Nara, the town of the sacred Buddhist shrines, with its huge bronze idol, Dai-butsu; the shores of the Inland Sea, with the Strait of Shimonoseki, and the south-western port of Nagasaki, the site of the old Dutch commercial settlement—all these places have long been made familiar to those who like books of travel. That is to say, we have already thereby got some acquaintance with their outward aspects, the ordinary appearance of their streets, buildings, and gardens, and the common ways of their people. Sir E. J. Reed, however, enjoyed special opportunities, by the aid of his official and social introductions, for inspecting several establishments of high importance, and obtaining precise information about them. He was also a guest at public and private entertainments of superior dignity, and witnessed the best style of native manners and conversation, among persons of rank. With these advantages his range of observation was different from that of undistinguished foreign tourists in Japan. Great pains were evidently taken to please him, and to win his approbation, which is freely given in most instances, with a general sense of satisfactory progress.

We are glad to find that this is not confined to the questionable adoption of European outward fashions and costumes, or even to the adoption of scientific mechanical inventions. Railways, electric telegraphs, and the works of the arsenal and dockyard, have occupied much attention; but we like nothing of which Sir E. J. Reed tells us better than the educational institutions at Kioto, described in chapter ix. of his second volume. These are, the female normal school, founded in 1871, his account of which is very pleasing; a female industrial school, connected with the above; a school of improved agriculture, with model farms and imported foreign cattle; a school of gardening for the culture of fruit and vegetables; a school of manufacturing chemistry and physics; and those of special instruction for textile manufactures, of the European sort, dyeing, paper-making, needlework, shoe-making, and other useful trades. All these branches of industry and others, down to street-sweeping, are taught at the expense of the city municipality of Kioto, which really sets an example to our own City Corporations and Trade Guilds, at least in this respect. Twenty-four of the Japanese girls in the Normal School are learning English from an American lady, Mrs. Arnold; she invited Sir E. J. Reed to hear their English reading, which was very good—"notably Miss Yo Tamatei and Miss M. Omori, both of them quite young girls." We are reminded of the experience of Mrs. Chaplin-Ayrton at Yokohama, with her female class of pupils in surgery and medicine. The Japanese have, indeed, great aptitude for learning; and it is delightful to be assured that "Japan is now governed by a Monarch and Ministers who appreciate, and are resolved to extend to boy and girl alike, the supreme blessing of education." The author goes on to mention other schools, in which the ornamental accomplishments of music, singing, and dancing, and even "the art of ceremonial tea-making," are taught to Japanese young ladies. The proper performance of serving meals to company on state occasions is very artistic and elaborate in a genteel household. Sir E. J. Reed bestowed minute attention upon all these points of domestic manners, which he notices with many a touch of quiet humour.

We have reserved for consideration the first volume of his work, since it consists mainly of the results of historical and literary studies. In these he has been assisted by several learned friends, Professor Anderson and Captain Brinkley, of Tokio, Mr. R. Stuart Lane, of the Japanese Legation in London, and others; while he has drawn largely upon the Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, the contributions of Mr. Ernest Satow, Mr. W. G. Aston, and Captain Pfordresher; the recently published books of Mr. Griffiths, and that of Mr. Mounsey on the Satsuma rebellion; and the reports on Japanese arts and manufactures at the Philadelphia and Paris Exhibitions. Sir E. J. Reed has compiled all this mass of knowledge, archaeological, ethnological, and statistical, with the ancient mythologies, and the more or less authentic records of native historians, and with a review of latter-day foreign conflicts or negotiations, into a treatise upon Japan worthy of careful perusal.

Two or three separate chapters are devoted to the different religions of that country; Buddhism, which may be studied, we believe, more fairly among some other nations; and the peculiar Shin-To religion, as well as the original traditions of "the god-period," from which the Mikado's divine authority is derived. We have to thank Sir E. J. Reed for making known to us, though perhaps inadvertently, the identical heathen deity who has, of late, been so much invoked by vulgar-minded Englishmen, in their martial oath "By Jingo!" It seems that "Jingu" is the name of a popular goddess, a deified empress, of course, under whose auspices the Japanese nation, sixteen centuries ago, conquered the neighbouring land of Corea; and she afterwards gave birth to a son, named Ojin, "known and worshipped everywhere as the Spirit and God of War." So much for this Imperial Jingo, on whom our hopes we fix, to "scatter her enemies, and make them

fall." Sir E. J. Reed's commentary on the fabulous stories of the creation of the world that are accredited by Japanese theology is pervaded by a piquant vein of irony, and of satirical scepticism only half disguised by his air of serious consideration for those marvels.

There is much curious and entertaining historical anecdote in this volume of Sir E. J. Reed's book; which also discusses the existing state of political and commercial relations with Japan. He was presented to the Emperor, or Mikado, whose name is Mutsu-Hito, and who ascended the throne in 1867. The character of his Majesty, as well as those of his Ministers, who are severally described and commended, seems to warrant our entertaining favourable expectations of the future progress of Japan in real civilisation. The author's experiences, on the whole, leave a decidedly agreeable impression of its promising state; and we are even told that a beginning of constitutional representative government has been made, by establishing, in 1878, elective assemblies to manage local taxation.

These two volumes are furnished with a good map and with a number of engravings; some from photographs, others from sketches by Mr. E. Tenn Reed, the author's son, who accompanied his father. There are a few copied by Japanese artists from pictures of Hokusai, which are extremely comical, wonderfully bold and spirited; as those of "Coolies Quarrelling," page 272, and "Two Warriors," wrestling, page 348, in the first volume; and, in the second, page 300, that of the fat men bathing, called "Soldiers in Time of Peace." The critical remarks on Japanese art, in chapter iv. of the second volume, are partly supplied by Professor Anderson, who has an accurate and complete acquaintance with the subject.

KINGLAKE'S WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

Recollections of some horrid nightmare or some unspeakable grief are, as a general rule, best buried, if that be possible, in oblivion; but, at the call of Dido, or of duty, the participator in deplorable events, or the historian of them, must needs revive the terrible past, as it is revived in the sixth volume of *The Invasion of the Crimea*, by A. W. Kinglake (William Blackwood and Sons), which is the latest instalment of a work commenced, as it seems, in the youth of men who have now grey hairs, and likely to be finished, as despair suggests, when the often cited snake has done rolling its slow length along. But men have been known to get to the end of Wimpole-street, and we have lately witnessed the completion of Cologne Cathedral; so let none despond, but let generations already born look forward hopefully to a personal perusal of the volume which shall be the very last of "Kinglake's Crimea." Nor will it then be matter of regret that so much time should have been spent over so important a work; for the years will no doubt have been employed to profit in conscientious investigation, and, whatever may be thought of the prejudice, the rancour, and the inordinately strong language which those who differ from the author may be inclined to denounce, it is probable that libraries, public and private, will then contain, or will have the opportunity of containing, such an account of a comparatively short but difficult and unique expedition as for truthfulness in the main, for minuteness of detail, for forcible description, for appreciation of characters and facts, for masterly exposition, and for exceptional impressiveness of style and diction, in numerous passages, if not throughout, has never yet been and is never likely to be surpassed.

This sixth volume is inscribed "The Winter Troubles," an inscription which recalls bitter memories, and strikes a cold to the heart, like the chill which is felt when the eye falls suddenly upon a gravestone eloquent of half-forgotten sorrows. But, although "the winter troubles" are indeed the fundamental, and inexpressibly sad, theme of the narrative proper; yet, so far as the historian is also an expounder, a critic, a champion, and a vituperator, the contents of the volume may be said to resolve themselves into a most instructive and masterly dissertation concerning the English system, or systems, or want of system, of military administration, a review of the causes, averitable and inevitable, which led to inconceivable horrors, the defence of Lord Raglan, in many ways and notably in what is usually considered the desperate form of "abusing plaintiff's attorney," in the person of Lord Panmure, and a display of virulent invective, more or less just or unjust, hurled at the newspaper press, represented by the *Times* and Mr. Delane, and at "war correspondents," represented by that brilliant writer and prototype of his class, Dr. W. H. Russell.

Ordinary readers, to whom the invasion of the Crimea has become, from lapse of time, an event of not much more present interest than the battle of Thermopylae or any one of Sir Edward Creasy's "fifteen decisive battles," will be mightily interested in the pages devoted to an onslaught upon Printing House-square, the great newspaper printed there, its indefatigable late editor, and its most celebrated correspondent, and will be moved to indignation or jubilation, according to their tenets, by the unsparing censure couched in unsparing terms. "Our great journalists," says the historian, "served up the remains of a somewhat rancid old doctrine which—when fresher in the days of King George—had nurtured the souls of young 'radicals'; and they not only declared aloud that the Army was 'one vast job, the plaything of our aristocracy,' but gave point to their language by showing that the General and Head-quarter Staff, to whom they ascribed neglect and mismanagement, were guilty of being well born." And of the chief among those journalists it is said: "At the mere sight of what he penned, he will writhe like a disinterred worm unwittingly cut by the spade." These are, perhaps, but "wild and hurling words," and a similar remark may apply to a great deal of what is said about Mr. Delane, not to mention more illustrious personages, and even the most illustrious personage in this kingdom; but nobody can doubt that there is some ground for the historian's censure, and nobody who had come to years of discretion at the date of the Crimean War can fail to remember how many persons, a minority, no doubt, but a large and respectable minority, were as violent at the time, as our historian now is, in denunciation of the apparently unpatriotic indiscretions of newspapers and newspaper correspondents.

The fact is that the whole question of newspaper correspondence, especially in times of war, is a very difficult one; it is impossible not to see that the danger is great when that which is a commercial speculation, exposed to tremendous competition, relying for success upon an aggregate of small items, among which a very little piece of exciting and anticipatory information is of enormous value; and supplied by purveyors who are themselves competing against one another, tooth and nail, for their daily bread, a daily bread which depends upon the extent of the popular emotion they cause rather than anything else, is allowed a freedom unrestricted by any laws but those of conscience, elastic conscience, and of libel. Nobody, it may be taken for granted, would at the present day deny the advantages resulting from a free press; but when we come to strike a balance between advantages and disadvantages, to measure good against evil, even to compare

virtues with vices, it is astonishing sometimes by how little the operation results as we know that it ought to result. Some such reflection will probably occur to all who have the mingled pleasure or pain, according as the author's handiwork or his materials are chiefly regarded, of reading this remarkable volume concerning "the winter troubles" of our gallant army in the Crimea.

The pleasantest part is undoubtedly that in which unstinted acknowledgment is made of woman's help in the hour of need, when the sick and wounded went to be poisoned in pestiferous hospitals.

ART-BOOKS.

The project of issuing *Illustrated Text-Books of Art Education* is a good one, and promises to be carried out in a fairly acceptable manner in the series now in course of publication by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., which will deal with the various schools of painting, architecture and sculpture (ancient and modern), architectural ornament and decoration in colour. What has been said of the importance of the songs of a nation, applies analogically to its text-books: the former contain the essence of its sentiment, the latter should contain the quintessence of its knowledge. But the peculiar faculties which enable a man to digest, summarise the results of, or deduce the principles from, his knowledge or experience so as to present them in a guise easy of apprehension to the learner—which enables him to place himself in imagination exactly in the position of the young and the ignorant—are very rare indeed. It is hardly paradoxical to say that often the more a man knows the less he is capable of teaching—the farther he gets from the standpoint of the uninitiated. Mr. E. J. Poynter, who has undertaken the editorship of these text-books, hardly evinces the possession of all the requisites of a teacher. A more humble attitude of mind seems necessary; greater attention to elementary principles; a clearer, less laboured style,—in short, less strong meat for babes. Anything like acerbity in the expression of opinion, or contemptuous insinuations against others, however justifiable, seem out of place when addressed to those who are innocent as yet of either opinions or prepossessions. If, however, we assume the first-published of these text-books—that on *Painting, Classic and Italian*, a considerable portion of which is written by Mr. Poynter himself, with Mr. Percy R. Head as his collaborator—if, we say, we assume this book to be addressed less to the young student than to the general reader, already, to some extent, acquainted with art and its relations, then there is much we can most heartily commend. These two gentlemen have compiled the historical portions of the book carefully and well. There is little discordancy save in some rather contradictory estimates of the probable excellence of Grecian painting relatively to that of Italy in the sixteenth century. Recent authorities, such as Messrs. Crowe and Cavalcaselle, have, of course, been consulted; and many of the mistakes and misrepresentations of Vasari, which were so long current but have been detected by recent criticism, are duly corrected.

So much, however, is hardly done for the childish errors and misconceptions of that earlier art-writer, Pliny. Some of his mystifications are cleared up; but others are accepted without question or qualification, such as the stories of Zeuxis deceiving birds with his painted bunches of grapes, and Protegenes with his painted partridge drawing signs of recognition from live partridges. Such stories, if not absurd inventions, arose from accidental coincidences, and, if true, really would prove nothing. The perception of the effects of light, and shade, and colour is a matter of education; birds, without our binocular vision and with their eyes separated as they are, but with, probably, far keener vision, are, we have little doubt, incapable of receiving from a flat surface the impression of an object in relief. If it were possible, the thing might easily be verified. And, if the stories were true, they establish little as regards the ancient painters' powers even of illusive painting—the lowest aim in art. For one artist to deceive another, as Parrhasius is said to have deceived Zeuxis with his painted curtain, would be somewhat more to the purpose. Strange, also, to say, there is a confusion in the use of technical terms, and a looseness in their definition, not to be expected from a practised artist. Thus, the words "tempera" and "distemper" are used as synonymous and interchangeable—ignoring Sir Charles Eastlake's judicious practice—followed also in the National Gallery Catalogue—of confining the Italian word *tempera* to the Italian medium (yolk of egg being a principal ingredient), employed mostly for panel pictures (which sometimes can hardly be distinguished from oil paintings), and confining "distemper" to the ordinary water painting with dissolved size, or similar material, on paper, canvas, or walls, and the resultant "dead" surface.

Again, to describe Van Eyck's discovery or improvement of oil painting as merely "mixing a kind of varnish" with oil, is rather a bald explanation of his introduction of a resinous ingredient into the medium of oil, and his probable discovery of a means of dissolving amber. Then, in the usage of art-writers, the compound word "chiar-oscuro" (see p. 14) is taken to comprise more than the words "light-dark" might imply; that is to say, not only light and shade (as black and white), but the changes which colours undergo through those influences. There are, besides, some little slips in Italian, as *simia* (which is antiquated, and does not bear out the pronunciation) for *scimia* (p. 69); indeed, there is an unnecessary employment of Italian occasionally, as in the title of the *Uffizi Tribune* (p. 509); and there is a tendency, rather out of place in a text-book, to substitute unfamiliar names of painters for those by which they are better known, as "Piero de' Franceschi" for Piero della Francesca, "Bazzi" for Razzi (il Sodoma) &c.: if the new names are more correct, the old ones should, at least, be mentioned. In a note to the Preface, too, there is an odd attempt to account for the commonly noseless condition of antique statues by attributing it to the "playful exuberance of an English nobleman, who had a fancy for collecting marble noses." Ancient statues are, however, frequently noseless where neither this nobleman nor his agents could have penetrated. The nasal fractures in many cases have, of course, been caused by falls, although there may be no other damage. A further explanation may, however, be found in the fact that among the many superstitions which so widely prevail among the lower orders of Italy is one to the effect that if a person finds or looks at an un mutilated statue he may be pursued by a malefic influence, as from the "evil eye," but by breaking the nose off the spell is also broken.

These, however, and other such minor defects, may be corrected in a future edition. The book is valuable for the general justness of the criticisms and the lucidly epitomised statement of the, so to speak, genealogical or synchronous and sporadic growths of the early Italian schools. One need not agree with all Mr. Poynter's estimates; for example, we find a high and pure sense of beauty, and neither "effeminacy" nor "incompleteness" in the best works of Razzi, or Bazzi, asforesaid: witness the St. Catherine frescoes at Siena, and the "Sacrifice of Isaac" in the choir of the duomo at Pisa. On the other hand, the estimate of the Neapolitan school seems to us too high. Still, the editor has a soundness and

healthiness of judgment which is lamentably rare in the field of art nowadays; and what he says happily acquires weight from the distinguished position he has won as a painter. Most justly does he point out the absurdity of teaching the literature of the Greeks, and leaving their art out of the schoolboy's curriculum. Mr. Poynter is never more acceptable than when exposing the fashionable cant—to use his own words—and pretentious ignorance of the day; and the following passage from the Preface strikes us as worthy of quotation:—"Outside [the professional circle] the taste [for art], though widespread, is desultory, following a fashion, or, as is too frequently the case, acquired at secondhand from the writings of enthusiasts; and, admirable as these are for kindling in healthy minds an ardent love for art and beauty, they lead as surely as ignorance itself to a dangerous spirit of intolerance and iconoclasm. Foolish disciples are only too apt to make these writings an excuse for indulging in prejudices no less objectionable than the prejudices of sectarianism, for with the love for what is called the 'good cause' comes easily the hatred and desire for the destruction of all which is considered to be opposed to it." The wood engravings have done duty before, but are well selected and representative.

Architecture, Gothic and Renaissance. By T. Roger Smith, F.R.I.B.A. This, the second of these text-books published, will have, to complete the subject of architecture, a companion volume on the Classic and Early Christian styles. We mention this because the latter should be read first, otherwise the plunge into Gothic would be rather sudden. With this proviso, the present volume deserves almost unqualified commendation. The subjects of the writer's own extensive observations and those of many others' labours, are marshalled in very intelligible order, described in a clear, straightforward manner, and criticised with discrimination and taste. We are inclined to think, however, that the great laws of proportion, symmetry, and unity (which underlie all art) have more sway in good and successful Gothic than Mr. Roger Smith seems inclined to admit; and that it is the giving undue prominence to the elements of "picturesqueness," so-called, and "surprise," which is bringing Gothic into ridicule, and will inevitably bring the new Law Courts' design into disrepute. The Renaissance styles might have been treated more fully, especially as there are signs of their coming again into the ascendant. St. Peter's itself, the cornice of the Farnese, the influence of Palladio, and the development of French Renaissance are rather curtly dismissed. In a future edition, also, the interest of his theme would acquire breadth if Mr. Smith were to adhere not quite so closely to his text; if, for instance, he were to trace the great obligations of Gothic to the Oriental styles, to point out the influence of Squirelone, Mantegna, and the Paduan school in the revival of classical taste, and to inquire whether the Perpendicular style did not, with its squareness and horizontality, facilitate the transition from Gothic to Renaissance. A fuller index is likewise most desirable. The illustrations are even better chosen than in the book on Painting.

The Life of Sir Edwin Landseer is a work of a very different stamp. There is no shirking of technicalities here. On the contrary, the remarks on the lack of true artistic colouring and other technical qualities which accompanied the splendid manual dexterity and superior imaginativeness of Sir Edwin's later works, are both sound and acute. But one might disagree with Mr. Stephens's criticisms—one might disagree with them often and widely, yet they would still have the merit of compelling thought on the essence of the subject with which they deal—which is more than can be said of nine out of ten of the writers on art of the present day. This, moreover, is an original compilation of materials gathered by the author himself with great and minute diligence. Some of the details are, however, of but microscopic interest to the most curious or inquisitive reader; and much of the material would gain by sifting and a more luminous arrangement. Here, in truth, the literary element is somewhat deficient, comparatively speaking. A portion of the care given to the collection of facts should have been expended on revision of the text. Not unfrequently the sentences have too many involutions and elisions, both of words and sense; the descriptive passages are sometimes cumbrous; the humorous wanting in ease and spontaneity. The following, for example, is not easily to be "understood." "The representation of animals in that mode of life in which the creatures existed is that practice which, being best understood by the common world, would best sustain the objects of an artist who had to do with so many beasts which were but semi-barbarous, and not in a state of natural fierceness and wildness."

The Minor Arts, by Charles G. Leland (Macmillan and Co.), is one of the *Art at Home Series*, and one of the best books of its class. In the Preface Mr. Leland argues, like Dr. Birdwood, on the advantage of hand-made over machine-produced decorations. And the body of the work contains clear, full, and trustworthy instructions in leather-work, porcelain, or vitreous-painting, designing and transferring patterns, wood-carving, stencilling, modelling, and casting, mosaic, repoussé, and silver chasing, and other "minor arts" which may be easily learnt and profitably exercised.

BUYING A CHRISTMAS-TREE AT MENTONE.

The influx of English, German, and Swiss visitors to Mentone during the winter months causes a great demand for Christmas decorations. Some content themselves with wreaths of sarsaparilla covered with its coral berries, mixed with delicate sprays of the wild woody asparagus, both which plants grow in profusion in the neighbourhood. But others wish to be reminded more forcibly of the Christmas of their home; and for them country people bring in silver pines, or even young spruce firs, from the mountains of the Alpine range, and sometimes fine holly boughs, laden with berries, which they display temptingly to visitors, full of reminiscences of the "true and tender" North. In the instance which our picture shows, the peasant has carried his trees into the "Pays du Midi," and set them against a white wall, blazing with sunlight, where the deep green leaves suggest a delightful coolness, in contrast with the parched road and hills. A young English lady, on whose account her friends are visiting on the Riviera, and who is recovering strength on its beautiful shore, persuades her father, with whom everybody says "she can do anything," to listen to the eulogies that the seller in Piedmontese dialect pours out upon his wares. The father will probably succumb, and there will be a transfer of coin highly satisfactory to Luigi, who will thank his patron saint, treat himself and his wife to some bread and a glass of wine, and start upon the long tramp homeward. A fisher-lad, with his long "Mediterranean bamboo" rod, stops on his way to fish from the wall of the port to interest himself in the transaction. We are indebted to Mr. T. H. Thomas, of Cardiff, for the sketch from which our Artist, Mr. F. Dadd, has drawn this illustration.

The Ironmongers' Company has given ten guineas to the Army Coffee Taverns Fund.



BUYING A CHRISTMAS-TREE AT MENTONE.
DRAWN BY F. DADD, FROM A SKETCH BY T. H. THOMAS.



"God rest you, merry gentlemen!
Let nothing you dismay!"

DRAWN BY LIONEL SMYTHE.

THE CHRISTMAS-EVE CAROL.

The old-fashioned repertory of serenades and matin songs, or Christmas Carols, which the custom of our ancestors provided for the eve and morn of the great yearly festival, contains a notable one beginning with these two lines:—

God rest ye, merry gentlemen!
Let nothing you dismay!

This comfortable and most Christian greeting at bedtime, preparatory to a timely remembrance of the sacred history and the appointed topics of religious consolation, is accompanied with a scene that appears in one of our Christmas Illustrations. Here come a party of village maidens, taller and smaller, who have learned to sing the favourite quaint old pious ditty, and stand in a sisterly group within the front garden of some gentleman's mansion, not later, we hope, than half-past ten at night, making vocal melody in due festal observance of the delightful occasion. They are pupils of the Sunday school, to which, as the Vicar knows, and to the National school of his parish, and to every good local institution, the Squire and his family have ever been ready to grant a liberal support. It is for this particular reason, and quite as an exception to the rule, that the girls have been permitted, under the safe guidance of a discreet matronly teacher, just to meet and come out, so late in the evening, to pay the gentlefolks a visit in the private domestic precinct. We feel sure that they would neither be allowed nor disposed to go round the village and repeat the performance, as boys with their fifes and fiddles and shrill voices will sometimes do, at the door of every house whose inhabitants might be expected to give them a shilling or sixpence for their musical salute. There is much cause to fear that the custom is in some places sadly abused; and this matter deserves the serious attention of the clergy, and of grave citizens and good Churchmen, lest the Christmas-Eve carol should do the young people more harm than good; if in no other way, at least by injuring their health, through loss of wholesome repose and exposure to the cold night air.

FOLKLORE OF DECEMBER.

At this dull and wintry season, usually known as the "sleep of the year," the festival of Christmas occurs most opportunely to enliven and brighten our homes with its merry-makings and festive doings. Hence the present month was called by our forefathers, "Holy Month," on account of the anniversary of Christ's birth, and in Germany the term Christmonat is still given to it. Cold weather about this time is not considered propitious, for, according to a well-known adage,

December's frost and January's flood
Never boded the husbandman's good.

Formerly St. Nicholas' Day (6th) was noted for a curious custom of electing the "boy-bishop"—a ceremony which seems to have prevailed throughout most of our English cathedrals, and to have been kept up in many of the grammar-schools. This day is not without its weather-lore, and in Russia they say, "St. Nicolas in winter sends the horses to the stable; St. Nicolas in spring (May 9) makes them fat."

St. Lucy's Day (13th), in the old calendar, was the shortest day of the year, hence the proverb—

Lucy Light,
The shortest day and the longest night.

On this day it appears that prognostications of the month were drawn for the whole year.

St. Tibba's Festival (14th) was once celebrated in Rutlandshire by fowlers and falconers, who regarded the saint as their peculiar patroness. St. Thomas's Day (21st) is observed in many parts of the country by a custom called "going-a-gooding"—the poor people going from house to house in search of money or provisions wherewith to celebrate Christmastide. In Herefordshire it is called "Mumping Day;" and in Warwickshire the custom is termed "going-a-corning." In Cheshire the poor speak of "Going-a-thomassin;" and in some places the money collected is given to the clergyman and churchwardens, who, on the Sunday nearest to St. Thomas's Day, distribute it at the vestry. The fund is called St. Thomas's Dole, and the day itself Dolcing Day. In Worcestershire the following rhyme is sung:—

Wissal, wissal through the town,
If you've got any apples throw them down;
Up with the stocking and down with the shoe,
If you've got no apples money will do.
The jug is white and the ale is brown,
This is the best house in the town.

On this day happens the Winter Solstice, or Shortest Day, when the sun is something less than eight hours above the horizon, hence the proverb—

Sir Thomas Grey, St. Thomas Grey,
The longest night and shortest day.

A popular piece of weather-lore tells us that as the wind is on St. Thomas's Day at twelve o'clock so it will remain for the next three months. There is a curious notion in Belgium that if it freezes on the shortest day of the year the price of corn will fall; if it be mild weather it will go up.

In the primitive Church, Christmas and Epiphany were celebrated at one and the same time, probably from a belief that the rising of the star in the East and the Birth of Christ were simultaneous. The separation took place at the Council of Nice, A.D. 325. Among the Anglo-Saxons this day was the beginning of the year, and was celebrated with various marks of rejoicing. Christmas is rich in superstitions of every kind; and, in addition to the many curious customs that have clustered round it, has given rise to an extensive weather-lore. Among the numerous observances once kept up in honour of this great festival may be mentioned the burning of the yule log, the famous wassail-bowl, the mummers with their eccentric antics, and the election of the Lord of Misrule. Many of the old local customs connected with this season are interesting, remnants of which still survive in some places. A few years ago it was customary in Leeds for children to go about carrying a "Wesley-bob," a kind of bower made of evergreens, inside of which were placed a couple of dolls, representing the Virgin and the Infant Christ. This custom, still kept up in a few places, is called the "Vessel cup." According to a popular tradition, the oxen in their stalls are always found on their knees, as in an attitude of devotion, on Christmas Eve. Bees, too, are supposed to make a humming noise at the time when Christ was born. Referring to the weather-lore associated with this day, a well-known saying tells us that "if the sun shines through the apple-trees on Christmas Day there will be an abundant crop the following year;" and it is also said that "a green Christmas makes a fat churchyard." Rain, too, during the twelve days after Christmas, is said to foretell a wet year.

St. Stephen's Day (26th) is now familiarly known as "Boxing Day"—a term which probably owes its origin to the custom of depositing the Christmas gifts in a money-box, to which Gay thus alludes:—

Some boys are rich by birth beyond all wants
Beloved by uncles and kind good old aunts;
When time comes round a Christmas box they bear,
And one day makes them rich for all the year.

This was a great period with our ancestors for bleeding their horses—a custom which it has been suggested arose from the fact that this Saint was the patron of horses, and that on this day the Pope's stud was physiced and bled for the sake of the blood, which was considered a remedy in many disorders. On St. Stephen's Day the wren was persecuted in Ireland, being chased, captured, and killed, and its dead body was afterwards carried about in an arbour of leaves by the young villagers, during which time the following lines were sung:—

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds,
St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze;
Although he is little, his family's great;
I pray you, good landlady, give us a treat, &c.

A small gratuity was generally bestowed on them, the day concluding with feasting and merry-making. Holy Innocents' Day (28th) is commonly called "Dyzemas Day" in Northamptonshire, and by the Lancashire people "Childers' Day." It was formerly considered the most unlucky day throughout the year; and people generally avoided commencing any new undertaking on this anniversary. In many villages it is customary to ring a muffled peal.

The last day of the year is known in Scotland as Hogmanay, and is observed as a great holiday. The boisterous merriment which formerly prevailed at this season gave rise to the term "daft days"—i.e., mad days. It is customary for young people to go about in bands, shouting—

Hogmanay,
Trollalalay,
Give us of your white bread, and none of your grey.

In England New-Year's Eve was called Singing E'en, from the custom of carol-singing; and of late years it has been designated "Watch Night," from the numerous services held for the purpose of watching out the old year. Formerly, on this night, the "wassail-bowl" was much in request; and, in some parts of Ireland, a cake is thrown against the outside door of the house by the head of the family, as this ceremony is supposed to keep off hunger during the ensuing year. In Scotland many prognostications of the weather of the coming year are gathered from the position of the wind.

HISTORY OF CHARLES JAMES FOX.

Explanations of the why and wherefore are sometimes forthcoming when a gentleman suddenly appears before the public with a work for which, being of a somewhat hackneyed kind, so far as the subject is concerned, there is no reason to suppose that the public is particularly anxious at the particular moment; but in the case of *The Early History of Charles James Fox*, by George Otto Trevelyan, M.P. (Longmans), it is left to the reader's own powers of divination to discover why the work was undertaken at all and wherefore it should be published just at the present time. The latter question is more easily answered than the former; for the time at which an author shall publish his work depends chiefly, no doubt, upon the date of its completion. To the other question the best reply that can be made is that the author probably felt himself irresistibly moved to the task, which, if it were to be performed at all, could scarcely have been accomplished more completely, down to the very index, in better literary style, or in a more sympathetic spirit. In fact, it may be said that, whatever efforts in the same direction have or have not hitherto been made, the life of the celebrated, indeed the most celebrated, Fox, has now, so far as his early years are concerned, been written.

The biographer begins with a short, but graphic and interesting, sketch of Stephen Fox, the founder of the family, born in 1627, who, coming of "a very humble stock," and "said to have been," as a boy, "in the choir of Salisbury Cathedral," died, in 1716, Sir Stephen Fox, having accumulated a vast fortune as Paymaster-General, Master of the Horse, and one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, offices for which he was indebted to his fidelity towards monarchs in general, especially Charles II., and to his constant regard for the main chance. To him, and not to Nell Gwyn, we are assured, is due the credit of having "inspired Charles with the idea of founding an asylum for disabled soldiers" at Chelsea. Sir Stephen was twice married—the second time, at the age of seventy-six, to a clergyman's daughter, by whom he had four children. This part of the narrative is by no means clearly or fully related; but it gives the reader to understand that of those four children the eldest was Stephen, who "became in course of time Earl of Ilchester and the founder of a house which has steadily grown in prosperity and general esteem," and who had a brother, Henry, the father of the famous Charles James.

This Henry Fox, afterwards the first Lord Holland, is probably remembered by most readers of our English history as anything but an ensample of life for men in office; and he was certainly, save for his strong paternal affection, which itself took a mischievously indulgent form, about as wicked a father as it is possible to imagine. To him, indeed, the biographer seems inclined to attribute all the vices and follies for which, quite as much as for brilliant talents and, as some may think, patriotic services, his gifted son will always retain a hold upon the memories of men. It is impossible to read without horror of a father who acted towards a son as Henry Fox towards Charles James, deliberately introducing him to bad places and bad people, in order to "blood" him, as it were, for the pursuit of profligacy, as a young hound is "blooded" for the chase. On the other hand, whilst the shameful conduct of the father is pleaded in extenuation of the son's behaviour, nothing can be plainer than that the son took very kindly to the course prepared for him, and that that son, had his nature been of the noble kind, which instinctively knows what is infamous to do, would have shrunk, though he could hardly have told why, from the temptations intentionally put in his way by a parent who, as intuition would have taught him, was utterly regardless of the respect which is proverbially due to the young. In the case of Charles James Fox, however, it is to be feared that the seed sown by the father fell upon ground only too well suited for it: the wonder is that the fruit brought forth, with its flavour of incredible extravagance, recklessness, and vice, had no taint of dishonour. Perhaps the most creditable deed ever done by Henry Fox was when he boldly ran away with Lady Caroline Lennox and married her secretly, as his formal application for her hand had been refused indignantly by the Duke and Duchess of Richmond. Thus Charles James Fox, the third son, and not, as has been often stated, the second, of Henry, Lord Holland, had in his veins a little drop of that Royal blood which the "merry monarch" diffused so liberally, though illegitimately, among his people.

Charles James was born on Jan. 23, 1749, and by 1774, the date at which the biography ceases, he, being then but five-and-twenty, had "already been twice in, and twice out of, office," had earned the distinction of incurring his Sovereign's personal antagonism, and had caused the "Fox property" to be diminished by a hundred and forty thousand of those pounds which had been obtained by hook or crook, and apparently more by crook than hook, out of a long-suffering country. Charles, who was idolised by his father, showed the most precocious talent; was quite a companion for his elders at fifteen

years of age; was "argumentative" at five; and, at the same time, was "so mad about the stage that he was reading every play on which he could lay his tiny hands." At twelve he went to a school at Wandsworth; and, about a year and a half afterwards, to Eton, where he "studied hard under Dr. Francis," father of that Sir Philip Francis whom, it may be remarked here, the biographer considers to have been unquestionably proved by the late Mr. Herman Merivale and Mr. Joseph Parkes, in their joint memoir, to be identical with the veiled and mysterious "Junius." In 1764 Fox left Eton for Oxford, where, at Hertford College, now resuscitated after a temporary eclipse, he exhibited a diligence and industry for which he made full amends in subsequent years, inasmuch that he would carry about "his old tutor's letter in his pocket-book, as a testimonial ready to be produced whenever he was rallied for laziness by his colleagues in the Cabinet." Then came travelling on the Continent, where he made acquaintance with Voltaire and other celebrities, and where he developed, if he did not originate, a taste for that gambling which was his bane. He was still a mere boy, in 1768; but his father, "as if ambitious of making him not less invulnerable to shame than himself," got him entered, among the most shameless livers of the age, at Brooks's Club, formerly Almack's. There he devoted his extraordinary powers of mind and body to hazard and betting, this occupation being varied, as time went on, by trips to Newmarket, where he ran horses with more pertinacity than success. In 1768, also, whilst "the young gentleman was still amusing himself in Italy," he was "duly chosen as one of the burgesses for Midhurst," one of those comfortable constituencies of the "good old times," in which "the number of permanent voters," might not reach duality, to say nothing of plurality, but be "returned as one." He took his seat in November, 1768, being then "unprovided with any fixed set of political opinions." He "enrolled himself without hesitation in the ranks of the Ministerialists," and it was probably at his father's suggestion; for the moment was opportune, and, "in the opinion of that veteran placeman, there was only one bench in the House on which a wise man would care to sit." Henceforth, the biography naturally blends with the history, especially the political history, of this country; and the biographer, keeping his principal character well to the front, sketches in the associated personages and events after a fashion which is equally satisfactory from the point of view of literary composition and well-sustained interest.

The large volume, indeed, is so intrinsically attractive and so attractively put together that it becomes very light reading; and, if there should seem to be some tendency towards hero-worship and some inclination to exalt a party or push a theory under cover of a great name, perhaps unduly magnified, this is but evidence of the cordiality with which the work must have been undertaken, and without which a biography is very likely to be dull. When we read of Fox that "his notion of true gallantry was to treat women as beings who stood on the same intellectual table-land as himself," and so forth, it seems as if there were an intention to claim his powerful support, by inference, for a certain modern doctrine, as to which it is quite impossible to say what he would have thought; but the biographer was perfectly justified in drawing attention to the fact, for what it is worth, that the great Charles James Fox treated women, as everybody should treat them, unless they plainly do not wish it, as if they were reasonable beings. But it does not follow that he would have voted for certain bills which were not dreamt of in his day.

NOVELS.

Appreciation of womanly nature is perhaps the most striking characteristic of the story contained in the three volumes entitled *Adam and Eve*: by Mrs. Parr (Richard Bentley and Sons); and that appreciation is plainly exhibited in the first few pages of the first volume. "Although not favourably disposed towards the lover," we read: "Eve coveted the love; she wanted to see some one racked with torture, driven to despair, called into life by a smile, and killed by a frown." And this true, too true, representation of what the most gentle, tender, excellent woman's feelings are likely to be towards all men, or nearly all men, is put forward with the most complacent ingenuousness, as if nothing were more natural and more in accordance with the fitness of things than that angelic woman should derive, as she certainly seems to derive, her chief gratification from the knowledge that the men about her, whether she care much or little or nothing for them, depend for their happiness or their misery upon her favour or disfavour. Well, well: men may find some revengeful satisfaction from the reflection that she is often repaid by choosing the worst of them and repenting of her choice. Was it so with Adam and Eve—that is, the Adam and Eve of our story? For our first mother, poor thing, had no choice; and could not know the delights of tyrannising over a score of lovers. The Eve of the story is Eve Pascal, an orphan-girl, an interesting young woman, who, at the beginning of the tale, has just lost her mother, and is about to leave London, where she has been gaining an honest but a meagre livelihood "by clear-starching and fine-mending," and pay a visit to some hospitable relatives in Cornwall, taking with her the heart of one "Reuben May, watch and clock maker," with an understanding that, "though there was no engagement on either part, each was bound, in case of change, to render an account of his or her feelings to the other." And so the reader is started upon a love-chase, of the kind which is generally more attractive to the gentler than the sterner sex. It is in Cornwall that Eve falls in with Adam, her cousin. But there is a song which significantly reminds us that, though "sisters we've all by the dozen," yet "a cousin's a different thing." Hence it is easy to perceive that, when the cousins, Adam and Eve, make their first acquaintance, things begin to look black for Reuben. Adam, be it remarked, is a handsome young fellow, and a gallant young smuggler to boot. For it is among Cornish smugglers that Eve finds herself domiciled upon her removal from London; and the doings of those smugglers and their families are described with great spirit and with a very curious and amusing accompaniment of personal portraiture, local dialect, and social sketches; while the natural scenery, contributed by sea, and sky, and land, is so painted as to testify of an appreciative eye and an artistic hand. It is to be feared, however, that, as soon as the tale begins to approach what should be the climax of interest, the author's touch will seem to most readers to become weak and unsteady, the narrative will appear confused and mauling, the attempts to be tragic poor and spasmodic, the development of character, especially in the case of Reuben May and of Adam Pascal, inconsistent with nature. Nor can the conclusion be considered satisfactory; if Reuben and Adam could possibly have done what they are represented to have done, poetical justice, or the justice administered by novelists and expected by novel-readers, would have showed them no mercy. There is one character, however, which, almost from the beginning to the end, produces upon the whole story the effect of a little leaven upon a whole lump: Joan Hocken is delightful throughout, from her first appearance to her last.

Married men are generally rather hardly used by the novelist, at any rate in the most popular novels, in which the faithless wife is so very often a conspicuous figure, but it is quite the contrary in *A Confidential Agent*: by James Payn (Chatto and Windus), a novel whereof the three volumes teem with proofs of the fidelity and devotion displayed towards a rather commonplace husband by a charming wife and a more charming sister-in-law. That the sister-in-law should believe so steadfastly in the husband is less surprising, perhaps, to judge from what one knows of life and learns from fiction, than that the wife should be as staunch as her sister. But then Mr. Payn's lovely and lovable young women, of whom he generally has a couple in each of his novels, are on this occasion, as they very often have been before, models of English domestic womankind. The husband is the "confidential agent" of the title. He is a young fellow of fair position and some talent, especially as an inventor of mechanical contrivances, who, by stress of circumstances, has been obliged to take a situation far below his deserts and the expectations his antecedents would have entitled him to form, in the business carried on by a fashionable jeweller. One of his duties is to go to the house of a certain vulgar lady of fashion, at whatever hour she may return from some entertainment at which she has been wearing her diamonds, valued at twenty-five thousand pounds, and take those diamonds, for which he gives her a receipt, to be locked up in the strong room of the aforesaid jeweller, who, for an annual consideration, takes care of them, and is responsible for them. Hence the name of "confidential agent." Of course, a time comes when the "confidential agent" and the diamonds disappear together; and the question is whether he, or the cabman who drove him, or somebody else, has made off with them, and, perhaps, with himself. When this point is cleared up, the story, so far as its plot is concerned, is at an end. The question, however, is not solved without the introduction of a great many, more or less ingenious, complications, together with startling incidents, and some heartrending scenes, arranged a little after the melodramatic style, as regards both the demeanour and the diction of the principal personages. The machinery employed by the writer may be likened to that of an engine supposed to have been constructed by the hero of the story: it cannot be worked without contrivances which may fairly be regarded as miraculous. The stars did not more clearly fight for Sisera than for the stealer of the diamonds and for the sharp young lawyer by whose agency a mystery was elucidated. The manoeuvre adopted by the thievish and murderous captain for getting the jewels into his possession seems to common sense more likely to attract notice to his house than to promote the obscurity which would have suited him best, not to mention that it must have entailed an expense which an impoverished scoundrel would have shrunk from incurring for the sake of a desperate contingency. And how desperate that was, so experienced a calculator of odds as the captain must have known. He must have been aware that, as he might himself have said, it was all "Lombard-street to a Chiny orange" against his success, which depended upon such an unusual combination of circumstances as the most sanguine gambler would scarcely dare to conceive. However, it is not worth while to dwell upon the amount of artistic skill displayed in the construction of a puzzle. The chief charm of the novel lies in the easy, sprightly, humorous style, especially when the author has some remark or remarks to make on his own account in his own person; and there is something particularly winning, too, about his manner of describing the loves and sorrows of a quiet home. The young French girl, who has learnt English in the society of some slangy young boy-cousins, educated at Rugby, is extremely amusing; but her appearance, at the juncture at which she appears, is utterly incongruous, and better fitted for a broad farce than for a tragic episode in a serious romance. But, indeed, there is some doubt whether the romance is intended to be taken seriously in any part; murder, bigamy, and the most affecting situations are depicted with an intermixture of jocosity which, though it relieves the author from any charge of endeavouring to pile up the horror, after the manner of the sensationalists, renders him liable, on the other hand, to an accusation of unbecoming levity and unskilful, unimpressive workmanship. It is to be hoped that the author is right as to the faithful wife and sister-in-law, wrong as to the unfaithful he-friends; otherwise, it is lamentable to think upon what slight evidence a most exemplary husband may stand convicted, in the eyes of his nearest and dearest he-friends, of having run away with a lady's diamonds in company with a young woman whom he had known and made love to before she lost her character. And, in connection with this matter, it is pertinent to ask whether a man who had deliberately made up his mind to the robbery and elopement would not destroy or take with him, when he went, a confidential paper in which he had requested that a certain sum of money should be paid weekly to the very person whom he would have with him. That he should run away with her, and at the same time leave such a request behind him with his uncle, who is to him as a father, will seem to many readers the height of absurdity. Don't say he forgot it: why his mind would surely be dwelling upon all that he had ever done for the woman for whom he was about to commit two legal and several moral crimes.

Jezebel was an amiable, Christian woman, compared with the handsome, selfish, heartless creature who is the most prominent character, if not the heroine, of *The Mystery in Palace Gardens*: by Mrs. J. H. Riddell (Richard Bentley and Son), a novel rather admirable for its manner than agreeable for its matter, more remarkable for a frequent display of downright force than for gently graduated, continuous attraction. Nothing, however, could well be more touching and beautiful than the description of the affection which grows up between a charming, simple, guileless young girl and her supposed father, and nothing more pleasing and graceful than the sketch of the sweet girl herself. There is amusement, moreover, to be derived from the portrait of a certain pretty hoyden, the sweet girl's supposed sister, from the manners and language of an elderly lady, belonging to the race of toadies and scandal-mongers, from the conversation and comments of the servants' hall, and from other sources. In the main, however, the story may be regarded partly as a study of a supremely egotistical woman, partly as a homily concerning the sin committed by King David in his dealings with the lovely Bathsheba. Indeed, the reader will find several pages devoted to specimens of the style in which one of the personages, a most excellent clergyman, is represented to have addressed a fashionable, stiff-necked, adulterous generation in a sermon based upon the significant text: "Thou art the man." The fair sinner, who figures most conspicuously throughout the three volumes of the novel under consideration, may possibly be no very exceptional case in our wicked real life; but she sins in a cold-blooded, calculating, passionless fashion, which, robbing her of every excuse, tends to prevent altogether that feeling of interest and of indulgence, if not of sympathy, which is generally excited in favour of an erring heroine who, being of an ardent temperament, finds out too late that she has married one man, who is not congenial to her, and loves another, who is something more. In

the present instance, it is a mere regard for creature-comforts' apparently, which is the fundamental reason for the many grievous offences committed by a wife and mother. We are treated to an uncompromising exposition of a rare being, a "woman who could love no one" (not even her child), except, of course, herself. There are many fine touches in those parts of the tale in which it is shown how the erring man sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind, was beguiled by a lovely face into repudiation of his better self, and paid for his weakness by years of loveless union and hopeless remorse. The gist of the story lies in a nutshell. A rich man accidentally becomes acquainted with a poor man, who has a lovely wife. The husband goes abroad to a situation procured by the rich man's influence; the wife insists upon remaining in England. In the mean while the rich man knows that he loves her; and she knows that she loves nothing but herself and her ease. They meet, the husband is away, and the rich man can offer her a comfortable home, jewels, and all she cares for. In a few weeks, then, she is under the rich man's protection; and "for years they lived thus in sin." At last the husband is expected home; but report, with considerable reason, drowns him; and henceforth the guilty pair live as acknowledged man and wife. But husbands do not drown so easily, in novels at least; and the injured husband comes back to his native land to find his wife the Bathsheba of his generous friend, and his daughter (for one had been born to him after his departure) regarded by that generous friend as his own and as the apple of his eye. This is plainly a pretty complication, though not altogether unfamiliar to novel-readers, who must be referred to the author for a solution. As regards the "honest" Adam who was beguiled by the selfish Eve and found circumstances too strong for his pious resolutions, one would be more impressed with the sincerity of his repentance if it had shown itself a little sooner; nor, as he had been for years living "in sin," is it easy to see how his position, as a sinner, was affected by the life or death of the husband. As regards the title, it may be remarked that "the mystery" is no mystery for the reader, whatever it may have been for the neighbourhood of Palace Gardens, long before the end of the story. This is to be regretted on the score of diminution of interest.

NEW BOOKS.

Simply to read the preface of *Pygmalion in Cyprus and Other Poems*: by George Eric Lancaster (Printed by William Clowes and Sons), is to imbibe the conviction that the author has true poetic instinct and the gift of song; and a perusal of any one among the various poems is sufficient not only to confirm the conviction but to transform it into certainty: so much passion expresses itself so melodiously, so much tenderness reveals itself so gracefully; so sympathetic a nature, whether for joy or sorrow, expounds itself so spontaneously, so simply, so plaintively. Exquisite verse, smooth and musical, conveys to the reader's senses in choice, intelligible language the diverse moods and emotions of a more than usually impressive soul. Surely, the result of such a process must be nothing short of poetry. It may be a poetry which, having nothing vulgar about it, will not acquire the popularity sometimes accorded to clap-trap sentiment and a pleasant jingle by way of accompaniment; but it is a poetry which, elegant and polished to a notable degree, will be appreciated by all who can appreciate native force tempered but unweakened by delicate discipline. To compete with the "grand old masters," with "the bards sublime," the author, as his modest but somewhat unnecessarily querulous and defiant preface testifies, does not aspire; but nobody can refuse him a higher place, perhaps, than he would seem to expect among those minor prophets to whom he professes to belong. And in the chorus performed by those prophets his voice will not be the least strong, the least sweet, or the least distinct. His principal theme is love; and he discourses as one who, whether sensuously or spiritually, has felt and can describe its power. "Pygmalion" is rather a hackneyed subject, it may be thought; but the subject is treated with more freshness than would be anticipated, certainly with originality as regards the metrical arrangement and fancied colloquy, and with singular intensity as regards the interchange of sentiment. "Sylvia in the West" and "The Combings of the Hair" are likely to please the general taste; they are in the genuine style of the ballad, simple and flowing, but full of fire, and yet tinged with pathos and melancholy. There are three Italian pieces, of which it is sufficient to say that they were written "in Italy, in a darkened room, during an attack of blindness," and that they were received with favour by the best judges, native Italian critics.

Disappointment may be prevented by warning persons interested in the Greek question of to-day that the comely volume entitled *Greece and the Greeks*, by the Hon. Thomas Talbot (Sampson Low and Co.), has nothing whatever to do with the modern Hellenes, as it is the fashion to call them, or the revision of their frontier. The book professes to present "a historic sketch of Attic life and manners;" but it is expressly stated that "the scope of this work does not admit of the introduction of matter connected with the modern history of Greece." Indeed, the contents of the volume, as regards both the style in which the information is conveyed, the sort of information afforded, and the illustrative examples cited from modern, especially Irish, customs and practices, bear a very strong resemblance to the notes which a schoolmaster might be expected to prepare, after consultation of the most accessible authorities, for the enlightenment of youthful students. For all persons, however, who have not more than a bowing acquaintance with the ancient literature of Greece the book is, no doubt, a boon; it puts things worth knowing briefly and lucidly, and, as a work of reference, for all but the really erudite scholar, it may be recommended for handiness. The author, however, clings to old, exploded fashions of nomenclature; remarking, for instance, that "Jupiter," save the mark, was "the principal god of the Athenians," and speaking of "Mercury, Juno, Saturn, Ceres, and other Athenian Divinities." The flesh may creep at such disregard of mythological propriety, and especially at the use of the word "Minerva," most gratuitously introduced, as the name of the tutelary goddess of Athens; but, after all, it is easy to know what is meant, and such language falls short of flat blasphemy. It is more to the purpose to observe that the book contains a collection of instructive and interesting matters not to be easily found elsewhere in such numbers or in so compact and agreeable a form. An index would have added much to the usefulness of the volume.

In *The Life of Sir Anthony Panizzi*, by Louis Fagan (two volumes, Remington and Co.), we have the record of a brilliant career, traversed partly before and partly behind the scenes. As an officer of the British Museum, Panizzi's activity was conspicuous and its results undeniable; the Reading-Room, the catalogue, almost the library itself, are visible incarnations of his thought, and stamp him as the greatest organiser in library matters that the world has hitherto known. His scarcely less important political career, on the other hand, was screened from observation during his life. Few knew how he was con-

sulted and trusted by Palmerston and Clarendon and Gladstone, and how greatly his influence and counsel aided in the deliverance of his native country. The copious and interesting correspondence now published by Mr. Fagan fully displays the man on this side of his character and activity, and is a very valuable as well as very entertaining contribution to the history of his times. Panizzi's Museum administration is also adequately described, and embraces the most important and interesting period in the history of the institution.

The idea and the execution of the Misses Zimmern's *Half Hours with Foreign Novelists* (2 vols., Remington and Co.) are alike excellent. Twenty-six typical foreign novelists are selected, representing among them almost every country on the Continent; one or more characteristic passages, usually chosen on account of their local colouring, are translated from each, and each selection is prefaced by a vivid and accurate sketch of the author's life and writings. The result is a sort of panorama in miniature of Continental fiction, from which alone a fair general knowledge of this department of literature may be derived, and which will tempt most readers to resort to the originals. Many of the writers, such as the Austrian Sacher Masoch, the Pole Kraszewski, and the Dutchman Busken-Huet, are as yet entirely unknown in England. The passages translated have in general been chosen with much discrimination, although one or two, perhaps, have hardly sufficient story. Those from Daudet, Stifter, Björnson, and Fernan Caballero are remarkably good—the last-named a most brilliant bit of comedy.

Miss Virginia Vaughan's *New Era: a Lyrical Drama* (Chapman and Hall), is not a book to be lightly perused or dismissed. Its scope is vast, its aim ambitious; and it is not easy to pronounce offhand how far the writer has succeeded in realising her idea. The mixture of Italian politics with an action passing "upon the planet Mira" is at first somewhat confusing, and calculated to excite prejudice in an age of realistic criticism; but a serious examination shows that the authoress's plan is not ill-considered; and the reader must be dull who does not catch something of her ardent enthusiasm and magnificent hopes for humanity. If these still appear too visionary, admiration cannot be withheld from the remarkable eloquence in which they are couched, a sustained stream of impassioned diction, everywhere dignified, copious, and melodious. Our chief regret is that this glowing rhetoric is too seldom relieved by the simple and unstudied graces of genuine poetic inspiration; yet there are enough of these to show that the authoress is something more than a brilliant orator, though oratorical brilliance is the most conspicuous of her endowments at present.

A SORRY JEST.

Shakspeare's genial appreciation and frequent ideal conceptions of the antiquated class of professional Fools or Jesters have secured them an immortal remembrance. They are ever present with us, emerging from the grand graceful groups of characters in so many of his noblest plays; "King Lear," "As You Like It," and "The Tempest," being enlivened with the finest examples of this kind. As privileged moral satirists, on condition of being witty and amusing, their vocation must have required as much sagacity and discretion as that of a diplomatist or Court chaplain. We suppose that the mere clever wag, the scolder and mocker, not sufficiently careful to "do his spiring gently," or to spare the sensibility of the more powerful and influential personages at Court, would be liable to sudden disgrace. It may be such an occasion of hasty dismissal, for the offence of some disagreeable truth spoken in jest—"a sorry jest," indeed, for the imprudent speaker, despite presumed customary license—that has driven out this poor fellow, not yet stripped of his motley garb of livery, as portrayed by the artist, Mr. J. D. Watson, to wander disconsolate on the wintry moor. "Where be your jibes now?"—one would ask of him, as Hamlet asked of Yorick's brainless skull on the verge of the churchyard grave—"your gambols, your songs, your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table in a roar?" The lonely and friendless outcast, now sobered and saddened by adversity, with a face of utter despair, biting his fingers in the attitude of perplexity and self-reproach, strides along in moody silence, to the wonder of his silly little dog. He still carries the accustomed "bauble," a short truncheon ornamented with a carved fool's head attired in cap and bells like his own; but he can no longer pretend to take counsel with that mute companion; the one knows as little as the other what he shall do. The storm is rising behind and around his solitary path, and he will presently find himself, but with no beloved and ruined old master to follow and try to console, in the pitiful plight of old King Lear's faithful attendant, "who labours to outjest his heart-struck injuries":—

He that hath a little tiny wit,
With heigh, ho, the wind and the rain,
Must make content with his fortunes fit.

That Fool of Lear's is one of the wisest of worldly men. Let us have a bit of his worldly wisdom.

Prithee, Nuncle, keep a schoolmaster that can teach thy fool to lie. I would fain learn to lie.

Lear. An you lie, Sirrah, we'll have you whipped.

Fool. I marvel what kin thou and thy daughters are; they'll have me whipped for speaking true, thou'lt have me whipped for lying; and sometimes I'm whipped for holding my peace. I had rather be any kind of thing than a fool; and yet I would not be thee, Nuncle; thou hast pared thy wit o' both sides, and left none in the middle.

Again, he says, pointing to the misguided old King, who has divided his substance between his daughters, the two "parings":—

The sweet and bitter fool will presently appear,
The one in motley here, the other found out there.

Lear. Dost thou call me fool, boy?

Fool. All thy other titles thou hast given away; that thou wast born with.

Kent. This is not altogether fool, my lord.

No indeed, far from it; and Shakspeare knew better than we can, how readily, in the frank and easy style of conversation then permitted, even in the society of princes and persons of rank, a Jester might sometimes utter the severest censures upon their faults and follies, but at the risk of being disgraced and expelled, like the unlucky subject of our illustration.

The Whitby Commissioners have resolved to spend £40,000 in harbour improvements.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts has opened a soup kitchen and dining-rooms for the benefit of the poor in Bethnal-green, in the Old Chapel, Virginia-row.

The Duke of Connaught has consented to preside at the anniversary festival of the British Orphan Asylum, Mackenzie-park, Slough, in March, 1881.

The *Warrington Guardian* says that Mr. Samuel Taylor, Eccleston Hall, St. Helen's, has promised a park of thirty-three acres to the people of St. Helen's; and Sir Gilbert Greenhall, Bart., has promised a hundred pounds towards the Masters and Workmen's Club, proposed to be erected in Warrington.



"WHERE BE YOUR JIBES NOW?"

DRAWN BY J. D. WATSON.



THE PLEASURES OF ANTICIPATION.
DRAWN BY A. E. EMSLIE.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated May 24, 1878) of Admiral the Right Hon. Edward Granville George, Lord Lanerton, late of No. 29, Grosvenor-square, and of Woolbeding, Sussex, who died on Oct. 8 last, was proved on the 25th ult. by the Right Hon. Diana Harriett Louisa, Lady Lanerton, the widow and sole executrix, the personal estate being sworn under £60,000. The testator devised and bequeaths all the real and personal estate, whether in possession, remainder, or reversion, which he was beneficially seized, possessed of, or entitled to, or over which he had any power of appointment, to his wife absolutely. The deceased was the brother and heir presumptive of the Earl of Carlisle, and, previously to his elevation to the peerage, represented Morpeth in the House of Commons for many years in the Liberal interest.

The will (dated Feb. 27, 1877) of Mr. Joseph Mayer Montefiore, J.P., D.L., late of Worth Park, Worth, Sussex, and of Great Stanhope-street, Mayfair, who died on Oct. 9 last, was proved on the 27th ult. by Mrs. Henrietta Francesca Montefiore, the widow and sole executrix, the personal estate being sworn under £600,000. Inaccurate statements as to the provisions of this will have appeared in some of our contemporaries. The following summary may be relied on as correct. The testator appoints his wife, his son Abraham Francis Montefiore (when he attains twenty-one) and his brother, Nathaniel Montefiore, trustees, and his wife guardian of his infant children during their respective minorities. He bequeaths to his said brother £1000; to the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Bevis Marks, £500; and the residue of the personalty (except his leasehold property) to his wife, as she shall by deed or will and codicil appoint. In default of appointment by her, he gives such personalty to his wife for life, and then, as to £70,000, for his son Edward Mayer Montefiore, and the remainder for his son Abraham Francis Montefiore. All his real and leasehold estates he leaves to his wife for life, and then to his said son, Abraham Francis. The deceased, who was a nephew of Sir Moses Montefiore, served as High Sheriff of Sussex in 1870.

The will (dated Jan. 17, 1880) of the Rev. William Finch, late of The Woodlands, Kingston, Surrey, who died on Oct. 19 last, was proved on the 29th ult. by Frederick William Disney, the Rev. William Henry Rooper, and Bartle John Lawrie Frere, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £70,000. The testator leaves the breakfast-piece by Hogarth to his sister, Miss Charlotte Finch, for life, and then to the National Gallery; the tea-urn presented by George I. to the then Lord Winchelsea, and the tea-kettle and lamp presented by Queen Anne to Lady Anne Finch, to his said sister for life, then to the Earl of Aylesford for life, and then to go and be held with the title as heirlooms; £100 each to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches, the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church, and the Society for Promoting the Employment of Additional Curates; his freehold property, The Woodlands, with the effects, to his sister, Charlotte; and many legacies to his executors, connections, domestic and outdoor servants, and day labourers. The residue of his real estate is directed to be sold, and the net proceeds, with his residuary personal estate, held upon trust for his said sister for life; at her death, some considerable legacies are payable to members of his family and others, and the ultimate residue is to be divided between eleven persons.

The will of Miss Matilda Cohen, of 146, Inverness-terrace, Hyde Park, has been proved, the personalty being sworn under £45,000. The testatrix divides the bulk of her property among her cousins in different proportions, and gives numerous legacies to friends. She also makes the following charitable bequests, free of duty—viz., the sum of £200 each to the Ladies' West-End Charity, the Jews' Free School, and Jewish School in Bayswater; £100 each to the Jewish School, Greek-street, Soho; the Bread, Meat, and Coal Charity; the Five-Shilling Charity, the Brompton Hospital, the Governesses' Benevolent Institution; the Idiot Asylum, Earlswood; the Infant Orphan Asylum, Wansstead; the Putney Hospital for Incurables, and the Royal Life-Boat Institution; and £50 each to the Beneficent Association, Berners-street; the Charity Organisation Society; the Sea-Bathing Infirmary, Margate; and the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children.

The will (dated in 1876) of Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Trotter, formerly of her Majesty's Indian Army, has been proved by Edmund Coulthurst, Esq., and the Hon. Henry Dudley Ryder, the executors, and the estate sworn under £35,000. An annuity and a few small legacies are given free of duty, and the residue is to be divided into eighteen parts—viz., five parts for the Royal School for Daughters of Officers in the Army and Navy, of which the Duke of Cambridge and Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Johnstone Lawrence, K.C.B., were president and treasurer; five parts for the National Refuge for Homeless and Destitute Children, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury and John Hampden Foreman, Esq., were president and treasurer; two parts for the Home for Little Boys, near Farningham, Kent, of which Robert Hanbury, Esq., and W. W. Williams were president and treasurer; two parts for the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, of which F. G. Hoare was treasurer; two parts for the Asylum for Fatherless Children, of which Baron Rothschild was treasurer; and the remaining two parts for the Home for Female Orphans who have lost both parents, of which J. Prothero was treasurer.

The will (dated June 14, 1877) of Mr. George Spence Fenton, formerly of Tyreallen, Donegal, Ireland, but late of The Grange, Hillingdon, near Uxbridge, who died on Sept. 26 last, was proved on the 25th ult. by Mrs. Frances Farington Fenton, the widow, and Miss Henrietta Jane Parkinson, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000.

The will (dated Jan. 17, 1878) with two codicils (dated May 3 and June 10, 1880) of Sir John Walter Trelton, K.C.B., late of No. 58, Warwick-square, who died on Sept. 25 last, was proved on the 19th ult. by Dame Finetta Esther Trelton, the widow, and Major-General Sir John Clayton Cowell, K.C.B., the executors, the personal estate being under £20,000.

The Duke of Cambridge has issued an order reminding officers that the Queen's Regulations prescribe the wearing of uniform by the commissioned ranks always, "except when officers are engaged in recreations inconsistent with its use."

The revenue of New Zealand for the quarter ending Sept. 30, amounted to £747,768. The expenditure in the same period, including the sum set apart for public works, was £970,901.

The Assessment Committee of the Corporation have completed their labours. The gross value of property in the City for 1880 is set down at £4,157,473, and the rateable value at £3,530,260, showing an increase upon the latter of £536,500. The new assessments will come into force in April next.

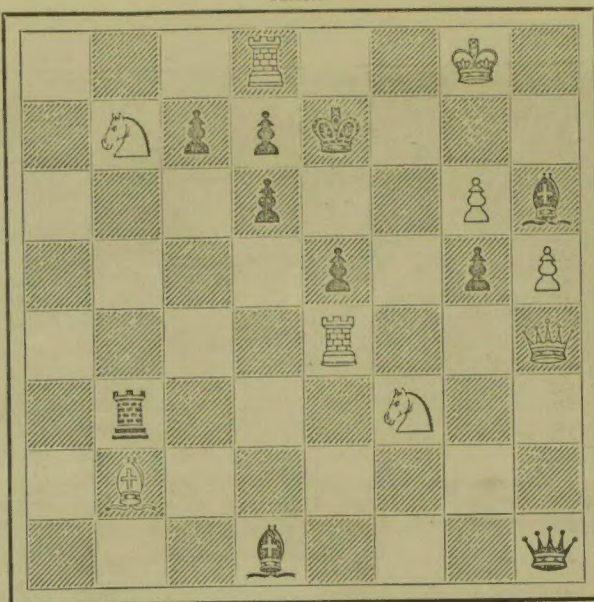
CHESS.

(Answers to Correspondents are unavoidably deferred.)

PROBLEM No. 1922.

By C. M. BAXTER (Dundee).

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

CHESS-NUTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

When James the First told his son that chess was "otherwise," the observation was probably true of the game, and still more probably true of the players. Chess was then "caviare to the general." It was the peculiar recreation of scholars and statesmen, two classes of personages who, in all ages, have been apt to be, or appear to be, "otherwise." No one, said an irreverent observer, could possibly be as wise as Thurlof looks; and so, it is likely enough that neither the game nor its practitioners were quite so wise as they appeared to our British Solon. Whether, at any time in the past, chess was overwise or otherwise, it is certain that it is now practised under such altered conditions as to call for a revision of the Royal verdict pronounced nearly three hundred years ago. It is now played, reviewed, and otherwise written about by all classes of the community, one result of this widespread interest in it being the production of works that, whatever may be their aim or tendency, are, at least, free from the reproach so gravely sought to be impressed on the mind of "Baby Charles." The chess press of our day reflects, faithfully enough, the varying tastes of various classes, and it speaks volumes, in a double sense, for its enterprise, that each class seeking what it likes best, all find it. If nothing can be conceived to look more "wise" than a modern treatise upon chess theory, those who consider that a fault which is only an accident may find solace in the fugitive "letter" or occasional pamphlet. If the professor of chess offends by an aspect of wisdom, the frivolous mind may be restored to its balance by a brief contemplation of the amateur enthusiast. And if the student of chess has formed no taste for playing the game, deterred, as is too often the case, by the associations attaching to its practice in public rooms, he may join a well-managed club or turn his attention to problems.

In the literature of problems he will find every conceivable form of puzzle of which the chess pieces, in combination with the chessboard, are susceptible, so that, when wearied with the subtleties of the scientific composers, he can turn to the ingenious triflers whose effects are produced by humorous applications of the technicalities of the game. In our last Christmas column we took occasion to point out that the literature of chess abounds in productions of a fanciful or imaginative kind; and we propose in this one to present our readers with a few illustrations of what may be termed chess jokes, not only in support of our suggestion that chessplayers are not superior to a little nonsense now and then, but also as a seasonable departure from conventional lines.

We commence with the following Problem, the composition of one "Fritz-Kalauer," a pseudonymous joker in the Leipzig *Schachzeitung*:—

White: K at K R 5th; Q at Q 1st square; R at K R 8th; Kts at K R 3rd and Q Kt 6th; Pawns at K Kt 4th and K B 4th.

Black: K at K 3rd; R at K 2nd; B at Q Kt square; P at K B 2nd. In this position White is required to play and mate in two moves; but if the reader, before he has got so far as this, has set up the position in the ordinary way, he will find it impossible of solution. If, however, he first places the board so that the corner square at his left hand shall be a white one, and then set up the pieces, he may possibly see the joke. Let him should not, here is the solution:—1. Q to K B 6th (ch); K takes Q; at this point the mistake in the position of the board is discovered; it is turned once to the left, whereupon White castles, giving checkmate!

We give two more of this composer's productions in the same vein, but with the chessboard in its right position, first and last:—

White: K at K B 6th; Q at K R 5th; R's at Q 5th and Q B 5th; B at Q 3rd.

Black: K at Q 2nd; Q at K Kt square; Kt at Q 5th; Pawn at K B 2nd. White is to retract his last move, and then force Black to mate him in one move.

It may be as well to set forth the solution of this one, in order that our younger sort may form some idea of how these jokes are constructed. It is as follows:—Before White's last move his Queen stood at her own square, and a Black Rook stood at his K R 4th. Replace the pieces; that is, retract White's move, and then, if White play 1. B to B 5th (ch), Black must capture it with the Rook, mating the White King.

The next position we purpose leaving to our readers for solution.

White: K at K B 8th; Q at Q Kt 5th; R's at Q 5th and K 8th; P at K 5th.

Black: K at Q B 2nd; Q at Q B 6th; R at K B 8th; B's at K B 5th and Q R 7th.

White to retract his last move, and then force Black to mate him in one move.

It is now twelve years ago since these jokes were first published, but we hope that "Fritz Kalauer," Yorick of the chess arena, has survived them, and may, sometime, see their reproduction here.

In compositions of the foregoing kind Americans and Germans are, apparently, more fertile than our home problemists; but there are, or were, some exponents of the comic vein among us. The following joke was contributed to the *Westminster Papers* so many years ago that it must necessarily be new to the present generation of problem-solvers.

White: K at Q R 3rd; R at Q Kt 7th; B at Q 3rd; Kt at Q 7th; P's at Q B 2nd and 3rd and K B 6th.

Black: K at Q R 4th; P's at K B 2nd and Q R 3rd.

White is to move, and mate with Bishop in four moves.

The joke intended here consists in sacrificing the Bishop now on the board, and promoting a Pawn to a Bishop, with which piece the mate is given in the stipulated number of moves.

The next position is called by its author, M. Schumoff, of St. Petersburg, "Haroun Al Raschid." Haroun, as every man, woman, and child well knows, was accustomed, when dusky eve had descended upon the minarets of Bagdad, to put off all appearance of state, and, donning lowly garb, to go forth among the people, observing their habits, learning their grievances, and, in due time, redressing them, as only the Oriental despots of story ever did, or, for the matter of that, ever could.

White: Q at Q B 7th; R's at K R 2nd and K square; Kts at K 5th and Q B 3rd; B at K Kt 3rd; Pawns at K R 3rd, K B 2nd, K 6th, Q 4th, and Q R 3rd.

Black: K at Q B 7th; R at K Kt 5th; Kt at K Kt square; B's at K B 5th and Q square; Pawns at K Kt 3rd and 4th, K 2nd, Q Kt 6th and 7th.

It will be observed by the sagacious problem-solver that Haroun (the White King) is absent on one of his nightly expeditions, and the author tells us that before his departure he put a man in his place. He now returns, and the solver is required to displace the man, put the Caliph on his throne again, and then force Black to mate him in three moves.

The joke of this problem, a very fine one, by-the-by, has always appeared to us to be in the condition that the Caliph should force his adversary to mate him. Our recollection of that favourite of boyhood days is that he was a potentate much more likely to force other people to checkmate themselves. Out of their own mouths hath he often convicted them; but, to be sure, that characteristic of Haroun Al Raschid could not be illustrated in a chess problem. The following is the solution:—Remove the White Pawn from K B 2nd and substitute the White King, then White moving plays, 1. K to B 3rd (dis. ch), B to Q 7th; 2. Kt to Kt square (dis. ch), B to B 3rd; 3. K takes R, and now the Black Knight must move, checkmating.

The last of our chess-nuts for Christmas is an original suicidal problem contributed by Mr. H. E. Kidson, of Liverpool.

White: K at K B 5th; Q at Q 3rd; R at K R 4th; Kt at Q Kt 4th; B at Q R 8th; Pawns at K Kt 3rd, K 4th, Q 7th, Q Kt 2nd, and Q R 3rd.

Black: K at K B 2nd; Q at K Kt 2nd; R's at K Kt square and K B square; Kt at Q R 4th; B's at K R square and Q square; Pawns at K R 3rd and 4th, K Kt 5th, and K 4th.

White to play, and force Black to mate him in two moves.

THE PLEASURES OF ANTICIPATION.

The mighty housewifery of the olden time, the cookery of a massive and savoury, but comparatively simple, Christmas dinner at the open kitchen hearth of a plentiful rustic home, is here exemplified by a brave woman's boid and skilful performance, to the admiration of her husband and children. That sucking-pig to be roasted, simultaneously placed over the fire with that huge pudding to be boiled, the basting of the one, alternately with due care of the other, demanding her continued industry and watchful attention, present a combination for which her guests cannot be sufficiently grateful. The anticipation of such a feast must, indeed, be a pleasure to the whole family gathered at the cheerful fireside; the honest yeoman, we doubt not, accompanied by two girls and a boy who turns the spit, looking on his wife's operations for their common enjoyment, is quite of the same mind with the Scottish rural bard, that *this* is "the true pathos and sublime of human life." We sincerely hope and trust that the result will not disappoint, in their case, sentiments which are so wholesome and natural, and so friendly to domestic virtue. A slice of that tender roast pork, with a crisp piece of the brown crackling, like the sweet crust of a crummy cake, would not be refused by the present writer, if it were likely that such fare might be offered him on the Twenty-fifth of December; nor would he prove a recreant to the charms of that luscious compound, where raisins and currants, orange-peel and sugar, lend sweet and spicy enrichment to the plump and buxom union of suet with flour. May those who can get it be happy, then and thereafter! their sleep at night be sound and light-some, their waking next morn be fresh and vigorous, free from oppressive feelings of an indigestion, as well as from disquietude of conscience and temper! It ought surely to be so with the results of a festive meal prepared and eaten in such abounding good faith by the countryman's harmless household.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Allen and Co. Turkey, Old and New. Historical, Geographical, and Statistical. By Sutherland Menzies. 2 vols. 1880. Report of the Proceedings of the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf, held at Milan in Sept., 1880.
- Atkin and Prott, New York. Moslem, Egypt, and Christian Abyssinia; or, Military Service under the Khedive, in his Provinces and Beyond their Borders, as Experienced by the American Staff. By William McL. Dye.
- Ben. George. Peter Parley's Annual for 1881. Coloured Illustrations.
- Bickers and Son. The Vicar of Wakefield. A Tale. By Oliver Goldsmith. With Twelve Illustrations in Permanent Photography from Pictures by British Artists.
- Blackie and Son. William C. Bryant, A Biographical Sketch with Selections from his Poems and other Writings. By A. J. Symington. Thomas Moore, the Poet. His Life and Works. By the same Author.
- Blackwood and Sons. Danby Clark. By the Author of "Hogan, M.P."
- Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. The Young Berringtons. The Boy Explorers. By W. H. G. Kingston. Through Flood—Through Fire. By Henry Frith. And other Stories. Aunt Tabitha's Waifs. By Madeline Bonavia Hunt. Jeff and Loff. The Story of Two Poor City Arabs. And other Stories. Cassell's Family Magazine. 1880. Cassell's Natural History. Edited by P. Martin Duncan. Illustrated. By C. A. Evans. Vol. I. From 1732 to 1814. Maps. Heroines of the Mission Field. By Mrs. Emma Raymond Pitman.
- Chatto and Windus. The Leadon Casket. A Novel. By Mrs. Alfred W. Hunt. 3 vols.
- Church of England Sunday School Institute. Catechisms for the Young in Accordance with Church of England Teaching. Elementary Lessons on the Old Testament: Samuel to Malachi. By Emily E. Deedes. Second Series. Lessons on the New Testament: The Epistles of St. Paul. By Elizabeth H. Green. The Sunday School's Companion. 1880.
- Crowes and Sons. Pygmalion in Cyprus, and other Poems. By George Eric Lancaster.
- De la Rue and Co. The Life of Sir Rowland Hill and the History of Penny Postage. By Sir Rowland Hill and his Nephew, George Birkbeck Hill. 2 vols.
- Douglas, Edinburgh. Notes and Sketches from the Wild Coasts of Nipon. With Chapters on Cruising after Pirates in Chinese Waters. By Captain H. C. St. John, R.N.
- Edmonstone and Co. Tit-Bits for the Table.
- Elissen and Co. Bound by the Law. A Romance of Married Life. By Helen Wesche. 3 vols.
- Faithfull and Co. Modesta. By Gina Rose.
- Giffith and Farran. The Letter H. Past, Present, and Future. By Alfred Leach.
- The Guests of Flowers. A Botanical Sketch for Children. By C. E. Meekker.
- Hachette et Cie. Procédure d'extradition et Résumé des Traités, actuellement en vigueur, conclus par le Gouvernement de sa Majesté Britannique par la France et la Belgique, avec les autres Puissances. Par C. E. Howard Vincent.
- Hamilton, Adams, and Co. The Sunday School: Its History and Development. With an Account of the Sunday School Centenary of 1880. By John Palmer.
- Hodder and Stoughton. The New Commandment, or Ella's Ministry. The Laws relating to Religious Liberty and Public Worship. By John Jenkins.
- Houlston and Sons. The Silver Star. A Romance of the North Land. By David Murray Smith.
- Japp and Co. Master Missionaries. Chapters on Pioneer Effort. By Alex. Hay Japp.
- Leaders of Men. Biographies Specially Written for Youth. By H. A. Page.
- Wise Words and Loving Deeds. A Book of Biographies for Girls. By E. C. Gray.
- Kerry and Enderby. Dorothy Compton. A Story of the '15. By J. R. Hennelove.
- The Path of the Just; or, The Christian's Pilgrimage to Glory. By the Rev. Robert Wilkes Gosse.
- Lockwood and Co. Sewing Machinery. Being a Practical Manual of the Sewing Machine. By J. W. Urquhart. Numerous Illustrations.
- Longmans, Green, and Co. Endymion. By the Author of "Lothair." 3 vols.
- Low and Co. The Rose Library—Nothing to Wear, and Two Millions. By W. Allen Butler.
- The Steam House. Part I. The Demon of Camperdown. By Jules Verne. Translated from the French by A. D. Kingston.
- The Dragonades; or, Asylum Christi. By the Rev. E. Gilliat.
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- A Handbook to Political Questions of the Day. Being Arguments on Either Side. By Sydney C. Buxton. Second Edition.
- Nimmo and Co., Edinburgh. The Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties. By George Little.
- The Life of Nelson. By Robert Southey. With Biographical Notice of the Author. The Treasury of English Literature. A Book of Selections from the best Authors, from Chaucer to the Present Time. With brief Biographies. By Robert Cochrane. With Portraits.
- Partridge and Co. The Welcome Hour. An Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Vol. IV.
- Paul and Co. The Catskill Fairies. By Virginia W. Johnson. Illustrated.
- Dorothy. A Country Story. In Verse. The Works of Alfred Tennyson. With Portrait and Twenty-five Illustrations. Ballads and Poems. By Alfred Tennyson.
- Religious Tract Society. Leisure Hour. 1880. Sunday at Home. A Family Magazine for Sabbath Reading. 1880.
- Remington and Co. 'Twixt Friend and Foe. A Novel. 2 vols. By M. A. Wackerbarth.
- Robinson and Co. The Proportions of the Human Figure. With a Project for an Instrument for the Identification of Persons for Artistic or Legal Purposes. By the late Joseph Bonomi. Fifth Edition.
- Routledge and Sons. Prince Darling's Story Book. With 300 Illustrations.
- Schoolboys all the World Over. Adapted from the French by Henry Frith. Pizarro. His Adventures and Conquests. By George A. Towle.
- Emment Soldiers. Biographical Sketches of Great Military Commanders. By W. H. Davenport Adams.
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- Strahan and Co. The Family Herald. Vol. XLV. The Family Herald Supplements. Vol. V.
- A Picturesque Tour in Picturesque Lands. By L. G. Seguin.
- Tinsley Brothers. Free Lance Tiltings in Many Lists. By Charles J. Dumphrie and Albert King.
- Trübner and Co. The Story of Philosophy. By Aston Leigh.
- "Vanity Fair" Office. The Vanity Fair Album: a Show of Sovereigns, Ancient Judges, and Men of the Day. Biographical and Literary Notices. By Jehu Junior. Vol. XII.
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